20巻まで来ました。
現在、スタッフは4名。
もうすいぶん長いので、あいまいな指示でも
察してくれちゃうから
どんどんテキトーになります。
ごめんね！　そして、ありがとう！

勝木　光

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Baby Steps
20
勝木光

# Baby Steps

ベイビーステップ

## 人物紹介

### エーちゃん
**丸尾栄一郎**

STC所属。「次の全日本ジュニアで優勝、そしてプロへ」が命題。そこで優勝できなければプロを諦めるという条件付きで、テニス最優先の生活を送っている。同じ夢を持つナツは心の支え。ナツとの交際がテニスに好影響!?

### ナツ
**鷹崎奈津**

STC所属。全国トップレベルの選手でプロ志望。理論派・エーちゃんとは真逆の感覚派で、それが互いの刺激に。ただいま恋もテニスも絶好調!!

### 青井コーチ

STCでのエーちゃんのコーチ。元プロ選手という経験に裏付けされた指導でエーちゃんをサポート。

### 佐々木姫子

エーちゃんの試合に必ず駆けつけてくれる心強いお姫様。姫子はエーちゃんへの想い実らず失恋。

### 影山小次郎

姫子はエーちゃんへの想い実らず失恋。影山は親友。

圧倒的な強さで関東ジュニア優勝!

# 関東ジュニア閉幕！

激闘を制し、王者に輝いたのは…

【男子】荒谷 竜

【女子】鷹崎幸津

準決勝で静波江に破れたエーちゃん、惜しくもベスト4！

しかし、立ち止まってるヒマはない!!

大本命の【全日本ジュニア】まで残された時間は、

わずか3週間ーー!!

関東ジュニアを通して見えた自分の課題……

全日本ジュニアまでの3週間、やるべきことを見据えて

ただただ練習あるのみ！

# Baby Steps

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#188: "Crown of All-Japan"

#189:Future Roadmap

#190:Appeal

#191: Head Out

Special


# to Giant Strides

Sent Mail
To Tasakashi Natsu
Sub Congratulatio... running
I heard the news! You
Congrats!
I'm so sad that I didn't a
to be there. Tell me all about
it tomorrow.
So about our day o
row, I came up with a bu
of things.
Here are the options:
1. Finish up homework at the
library. It will be nice and cool
and won't cost any money. We
should be able to get plenty
of rest, too.
2. Play at the pool. But since
it's supposed to be our day
off, we should be careful not
strain our body.
3. Movie -> Dinner -> Kara-
oke. Pretty much the same as
last time.
These are what I have so far,
and I wanted to decide based
on how you are feeling. How
about we meet tomorrow at
11 in front of the station?
PICK A PLACE TO GO...
FOR OUR DAY OFF
I SENT OUT THIS TEXT AFTER STRUGGLING WITH IT A BIT...
H-HOW'S THIS?!
EVEN THOUGH I WAS TOLD THAT...
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A GOOD DATING SPOT
AND THE TEXT THAT CAME BACK WAS...
IN SHORT,
① LIBRARY
② POOL
③ MOVIE
WHICH ONE?
IT'S PRETTY MUCH DOWN TO THESE THREE

# #182 SINCE WHEN?

ONE LINE!!!
It's summer, so the pool of course!
RESTAURANT & COFFEE
AND SO...
WE WENT TO THE POOL.

MAYBE I DIDN'T NEED GOGGLES. .
シャキーン!
I'M HERE~
I'M FEELING NERVOUS BECAUSE IT'S OUR FIRST DATE.
IT'S BEEN SEVEN DAYS SINCE WE OFFICIALLY STARTED DATING.
ドキ
ドキ
SO TODAY ...
I WANT TO TRY HOLDING HANDS!!!
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ

OKAY!
LET'S GO!

!?
WAIT A SECOND!
WAIT ...
AYE, AYE, COACH!
what if you get injured?
YOU NEED TO WARM-UP FIRST!

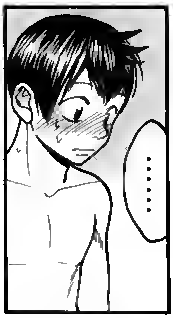
YAYYY YYYY
SO FUNN-NNN!!!
EH...?! AGAIN?
ONCE MORE!!!

KYA~♡
IT'S SO COOL!
SHE'S SO FULL OF ENERGY EVEN AFTER PLAYING FOR THE KANTO JUNIOR FINALS YESTERDAY

THAT WAS A PRETTY LATE LUNCH.
MAYBE WE PLAYED TOO HARD.
LET'S TAKE REST FOR A BIT.
OKAY.
PHEW~ THAT WAS SO GOOD ♡
I MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE, RIGHT?
YUP! TODAY'S PERFECT FOR THE POOL.

うと
!?
NAC-CHAN.. ARE YOU SLEEPY?
EH? WAS I DROWSING?
WELL CONSIDER-ING WHAT YOU WENT THROUGH YESTERDAY
I'M FINE! I'M NOT TIRED!
TODAY'S SUPPOSED TO BE A BREAK,
SO YOU HAVE TO MAKE SURE YOU TAKE A REST IF YOUR BODY IS TIRED
HOW ABOUT YOU TAKE A NAP FOR A BIT?

I DON'T WANT TO I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR DATE...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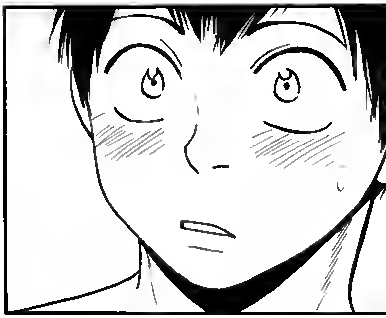
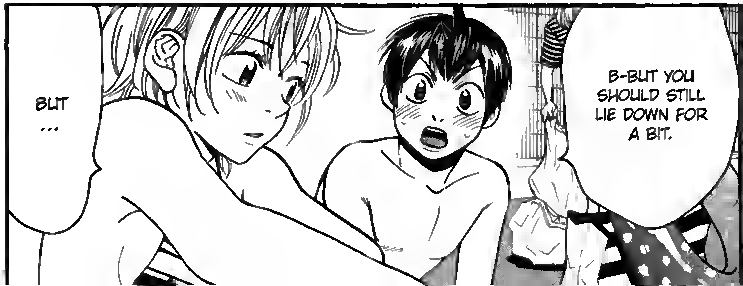


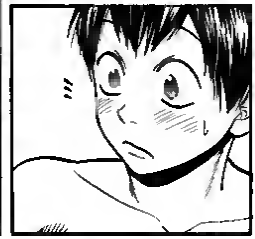

B-BUT YOU SHOULD STILL LIE DOWN FOR A BIT.
BUT ...

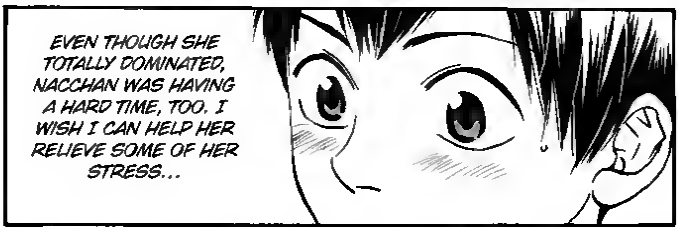
I-I'LL KEEP HOLDING YOUR HAND THE WHOLE TIME!
WELL ...
THEN.
...OOPS, DID I SCREW UP?!
I'LL TAKE YOUR ADVICE
AND SLEEP FOR TEN MINUTES.
.....!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS PLAYING SUCH TOUGH MATCHES JUST A FEW DAYS AGO...

I... I FEEL SO HAPPY.

AND EVEN HARDER BATTLES ARE WAITING FOR ME THREE WEEKS FROM NOW...




EVEN THOUGH SHE TOTALLY DOMINATED, NACCHAN WAS HAVING A HARD TIME, TOO. I WISH I CAN HELP HER RELIEVE SOME OF HER STRESS...

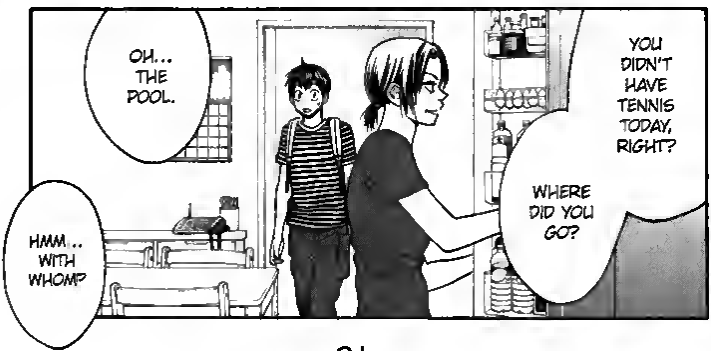
I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE JOY OF TENNIS MATCHES, BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I LEARNED HOW TOUGH THEY WERE...
AND NACCHAN'S ALWAYS GIVING ME STRENGTH TO OVERCOME THOSE HARD-SHIPS.

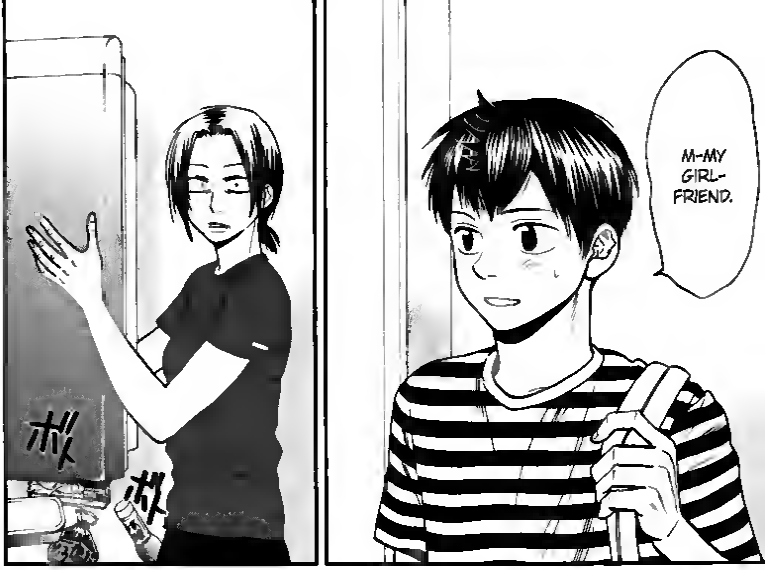
WOW~ THAT WAS FUN~
GOING ON THAT SLIDE AGAIN TEN TIMES AFTER WAKING UP WAS A BIT TOO MUCH...
STAURANT COFFEE
HEY, EI-CHAN...
THERE'S SOMETHING I NOTICED TODAY.
HMM? WHAT?
I THINK I LIKE HOLDING HANDS.
ぎゅっ

HUH?!
CAUSE... I'M ALWAYS ALONE ON THE COURT.
I CAN NEVER STAY ON THE SAME COURT AS EI-CHAN.
BUT WHEN WE ARE HOLDING HANDS, I FEEL LIKE I'M NOT ALONE, AND...
*LAUGHTER*
あはははは
PHEW, THANK GOOD-NESS!
I WAS WONDERING HOW NAC-CHAN FELT ABOUT IT, TOO.
IT'S A BIT EMBAR-RASSING... BUT IT'S NICE, RIGHT?
I KNOW THAT FEEL-ING.
I FEEL PRETTY RELAXED, TOO!

LET'S WALK BY THE BEACH ON OUR WAY BACK.
SURE.

WEL-
COME
HOME.
I'M
BACK~


OH...
THE
POOL.
YOU
DIDN'T
HAVE
TENNIS
TODAY,
RIGHT?
WHERE
DID YOU
GO?
HMM...
WITH
WHOM?


M-MY GIRL-FRIEND.

SINCE WHEN DID YOU START GOING OUT?
YOU JUST DROPPED A BUNCH OF STUFF
UMM .. WHO CARES ..?
WHAT?! Y-YOU HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND?
SINCE WHEN?
WHO IS IT?

ARGH~ SO ANNOYING!!!
CAN WE EAT FIRST..?
PICS OR IT DIDN'T HAPPEN
Like a pro~kura

mangascans.org
imangascans
rc.rchighway.net

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RAWs: imangascans
Translator: Ruggia
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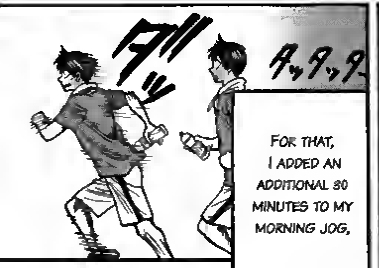
05:00
Three weeks till All-Japan Junior.
もぐ
もぐ
もぐ
Baby Steps
ベイビーステップ
There are three things I need to do

#183 WHERE AM I?

First is enhancement of overall hitting power.


For that, I added an additional 30 minutes to my morning jog,

and added even more stop & dash routines.
DUFFERS
LONDON

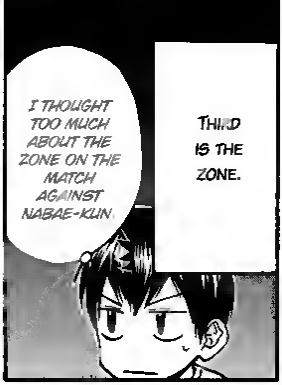
The harder I hit, the harder it is to maintain control.
In order to stabilize my strokes, I need to train my lower body more than anything.

SECOND IS INCREASING CHANGE-OF-PACE PATTERNS.

I'LL START WITH SIMULATIONS ON MY NOTEBOOK, THEN PUT THEM TO PRACTICE ON THE COURT
I HAVE TO COME UP WITH BRAND NEW PATTERNS.
AS I FIX THE PROBLEMS I FOUND FROM KANTO JUNIOR,

SO I NEED TO TEACH MY MIND AND BODY AS MANY THINGS AS POSSIBLE RIGHT NOW.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH ROOM TO THINK ONCE I'M IN A MATCH.
AND THERE ARE TIMES IT'S BETTER TO NOT THINK AT ALL.

I NEED TO DO SOME MORE RESEARCH ON THE ZONE.
AND I DIDN'T FIGURE ANYTHING OUT IN THE END.


I THOUGHT TOO MUCH ABOUT THE ZONE ON THE MATCH AGAINST NABAE-KUN.
THIRD IS THE ZONE.

EIICHIRO, YOUR FOOD'S READY~
COMING~

...AND IF POSSIBLE,
I WOULD LIKE TO "GO INTO ZONE BY MY OWN WILL" LIKE AOI-SAN SAID

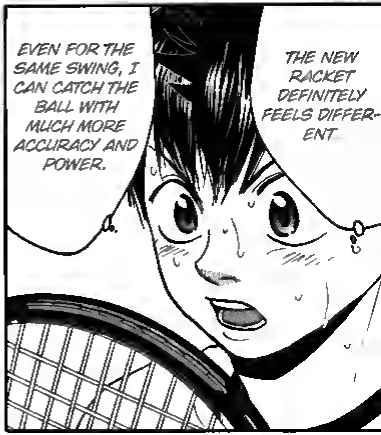
ハー

With all the members of STC's Court A qualifying for the All-Japan Junior,
TIMMY
We were practicing even harder than before.

OREGON
HA

.....!

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GO PRETTY FAR IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS!


EVEN FOR THE SAME SWING, I CAN CATCH THE BALL WITH MUCH MORE ACCURACY AND POWER.
THE NEW RACKET DEFINITELY FEELS DIFFERENT.

NOW IT'S ALL ABOUT STRENGTHENING MY LOWER BODY AND HOW MUCH I CAN CONTROL IT.
MAYBE IT'S ALSO BECAUSE I MADE MY SWING BIGGER.

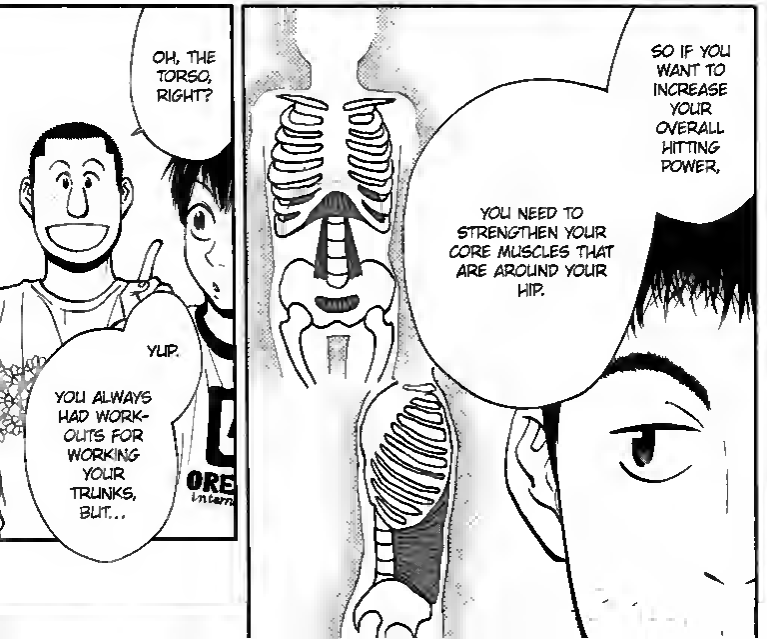
.....
HEY, MARUO.
I KNOW YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR STROKES MORE POWERFUL OVERALL,
BUT YOUR FORM'S GOTTEN TOO BIG.
EH?
THEN .. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HIT STRONGER?
SINCE IT GETS HARDER TO CONTROL THE STRONGER YOU HIT,
YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR FORM MORE COMPACT
HUH? MORE COMPACT FOR STRONGER HITTING?

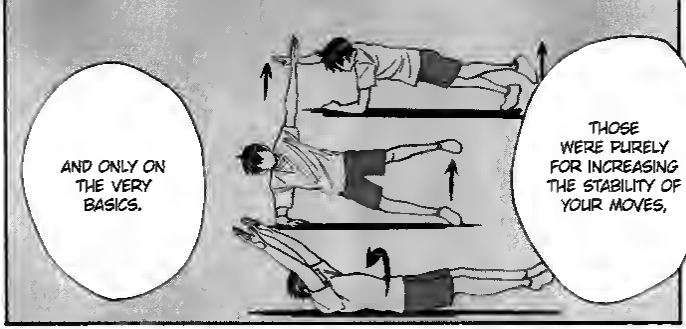
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO DO.
YUP.. SO BEFORE THAT,

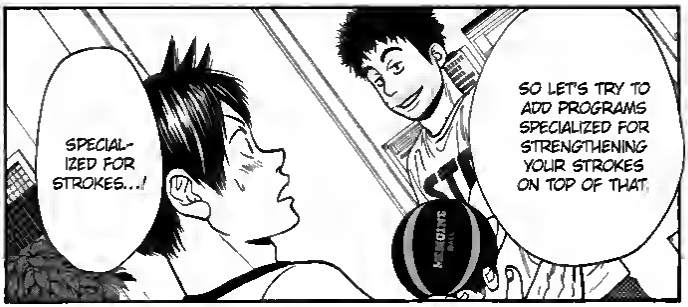
WHAT?
FIRST OFF, WHAT DO YOU USE TO HIT A SHOT?

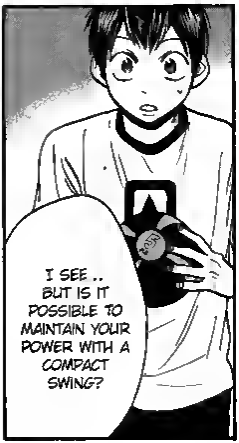
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, I'LL KEEP IT SHORT.

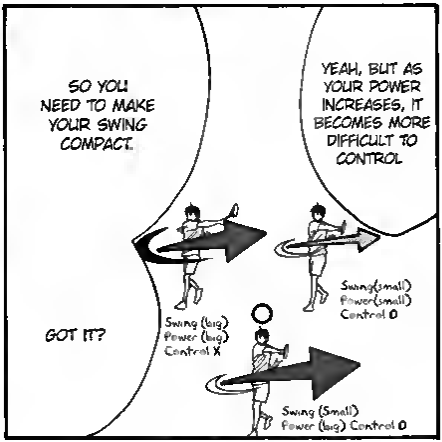
WHEN YOU ARE HITTING, YOU ARE MAINLY HITTING WITH THE ROTATION OF YOUR HIP.
LOWER BODY? BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ACTUALLY HITTING WITH MY LOWER BODY
THE RACKET IS TOO STRAIGHT-FORWARD BOTH ARMS NO, THAT'S NOT IT
ALL THE THINGS YOU ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW ARE CENTERED ON THE HIP... HIP, GOT IT?


OH, THE TORSO, RIGHT?
YUP.
YOU ALWAYS HAD WORK-OUTS FOR WORKING YOUR TRUNKS, BUT...
SO IF YOU WANT TO INCREASE YOUR OVERALL HITTING POWER,
YOU NEED TO STRENGTHEN YOUR CORE MUSCLES THAT ARE AROUND YOUR HIP.


AND ONLY ON THE VERY BASICS.
THOSE WERE PURELY FOR INCREASING THE STABILITY OF YOUR MOVES.


SPECIAL-IZED FOR STROKES...!
SO LET'S TRY TO ADD PROGRAMS SPECIALIZED FOR STRENGTHENING YOUR STROKES ON TOP OF THAT.


I SEE .. BUT IS IT POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN YOUR POWER WITH A COMPACT SWING?


SO YOU NEED TO MAKE YOUR SWING COMPACT.
YEAH, BUT AS YOUR POWER INCREASES, IT BECOMES MORE DIFFICULT TO CONTROL
GOT IT?
Swing (big) Power (big) Control X
Swing(small) Power(small) Control O
Swing (Small) Power (big) Control O

THAT'S HOW HARD YOU NEED TO WORK.
H... YES!!!
THEN FIRST, HOLD A 5 KG BALL WITH BOTH HANDS,
THEN AS YOU ARE SITTING WITH YOUR LEGS UP HIGH,
TRY TO THROW IT AS FAR AS YOU CAN JUST BY TWISTING YOUR BODY.
THEN TRY TO DO THE SAME THING WHILE SITTING ON YOUR KNEES
WITHOUT MOVING YOUR HEAD OR BODY.
THROW IT FAR!

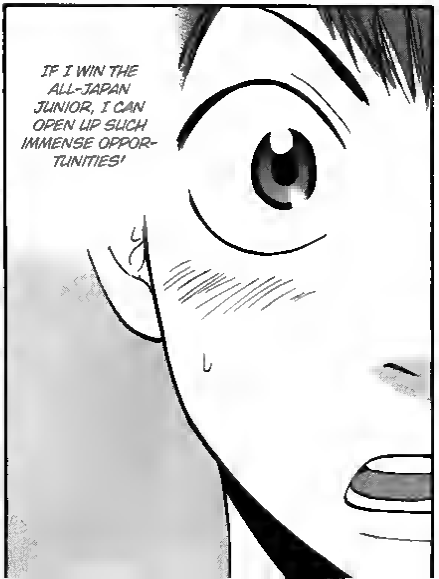
THIS IS... PRETTY TOUGH.
RIGHT?
5kg
FOCUS ON TWISTING YOUR PELVIS AND YOUR RIBS
DON'T TRY TO USE YOUR HANDS.
G-GOT IT... UMM...
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR EVERY-THING!
TRUNKS AREN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE STRENGTHENED IN A SHORT TIME.
BUT YOU'RE GOOD ON THE BASICS SO YOU SHOULD SEE PLENTY OF RESULTS IN JUST THREE WEEKS.
SAVE THAT FOR THREE WEEKS FROM NOW.

IF YOU WIN THE ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR, THERE'LL BE THE ALL-JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIPS, SO YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE INJURED.
ALSO, SINCE TRUNK IS THE CENTER OF YOUR BODY, IT GETS REALLY BAD IF YOU GET IT INJURED.
IT STARTS ADDING EXTRA PRESSURE ON YOUR HIP JOINT, SHOULDER, THIGHS, ELBOWS, ANKLES, AND WRISTS.
HUH?
ALL-JAPAN CHAMPION-SHIP?
HUH...? OH, REALLY?
HUH ..? YOU DON'T KNOW THAT THE WINNER OF ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR GETS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ALL-JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP?
.....

PROFES-
SIONAL...!
THAT'S RIGHT. ALL-JAPAN CHAMPIONSHIP IS A TOURNAMENT THAT BRINGS TOGETHER ALL THE PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS IN JAPAN.
PLAYERS WHO ARE IN THE ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR FINALS CAN PARTICIPATE AS WILD CARDS* THE WINNER GOES IN AT THE PLAYOFF, AND THE RUNNER-UP IN THE PRELIMINARIES.
*Wild Card: Players who are granted special permission to participate in a tournament.
!!
TAKUMA'S SCHEDULED TO PLAY IN THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT, TOO
WORLD SUPER JUNIOR...?!
NOT ONLY THAT, YOU ARE ALSO GRANTED WILD CARD IN THE PLAYOFF OF WORLD SUPER JUNIOR.

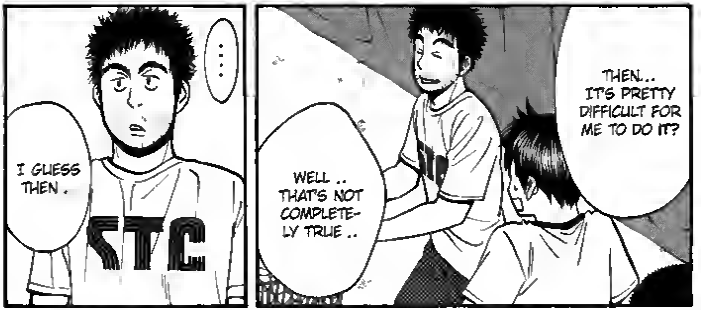
WORLD SUPER JUNIOR IS THE HIGHEST LEVEL INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR COMPETI-TION.
IT'S A RARE CHANCE TO PLAY AGAINST OVERSEAS PLAYERS.
O-OVERSEAS PLAYERS?!
Although Alex is not a junior

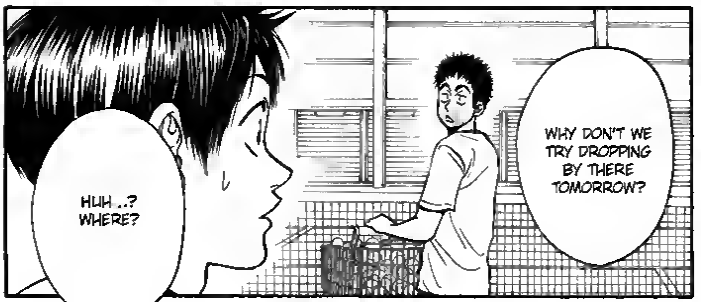
HEY, HEY
BUT I WAS SO FOCUSED ON WHAT'S IN FRONT OF ME.
N-NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I HEARD ABOUT THOSE BEFORE,

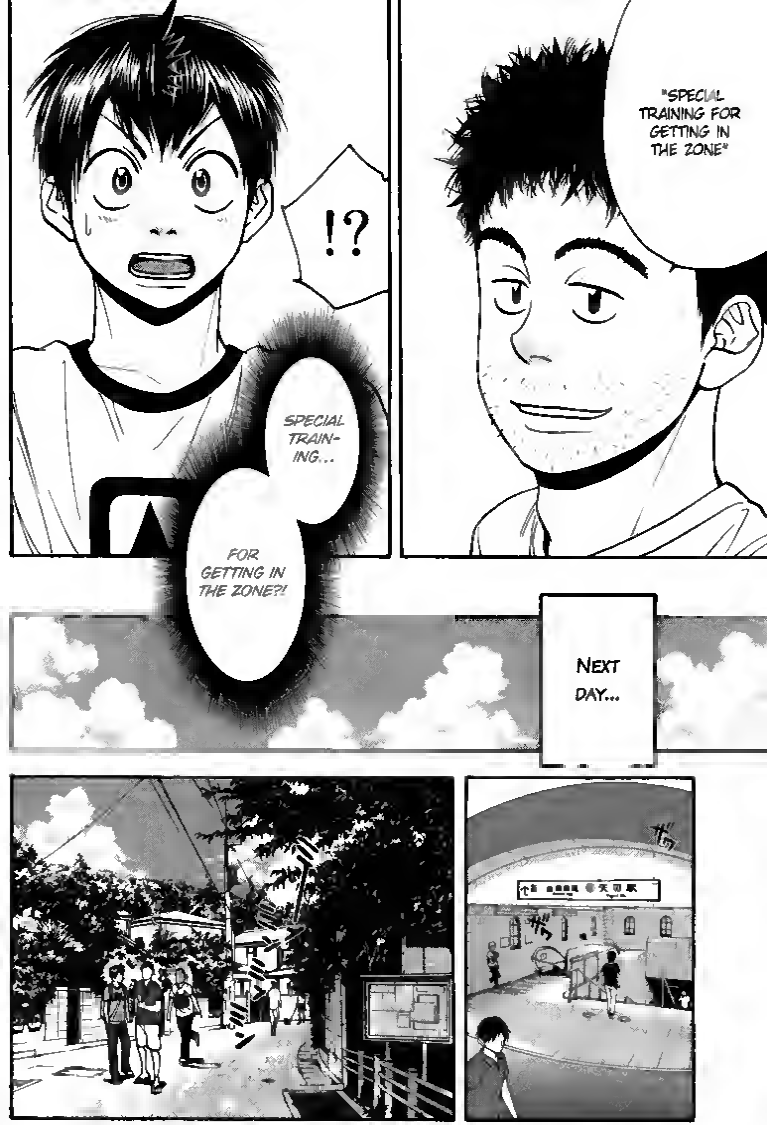

IF I WIN THE ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR, I CAN OPEN UP SUCH IMMENSE OPPOR-TUNITIES!

WELL, THERE'S NO POINT THINKING ABOUT THINGS THAT ARE TOO FAR AHEAD.
COME ON, TWIST THEM MORE!
YES, SIR!
HEY, YOU SAID MARUO, YOU WERE RESEARCHING ABOUT ZONE THE OTHER DAY, RIGHT?
YES. BUT I COULDN'T MAKE MUCH PROGRESS SINCE THEN.
ARGH.. IT'S ALL TIGHT. .
HA HA HA
STC
OREGON

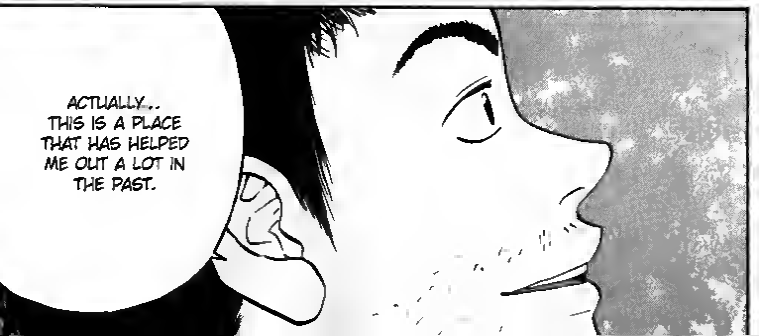
LIKE THAT IDE YOU FOUGHT WITH.
Also Inaitu...
Genius...
WELL, I WAS TALKING ABOUT NATURAL GENIUSES...
SO I'VE BEEN TRYING TO DO THE BEST I CAN.
BUT YOU SAID "THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN GET IN THE ZONE BY THEIR OWN WILL",


...
I GUESS THEN.
WELL .. THAT'S NOT COMPLETE-LY TRUE ..
THEN.. IT'S PRETTY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO DO IT?


HUH ..? WHERE?
WHY DON'T WE TRY DROPPING BY THERE TOMORROW?


"SPECIAL TRAINING FOR GETTING IN THE ZONE"
!?
SPECIAL TRAIN-ING...
FOR GETTING IN THE ZONE?!
NEXT DAY...

HMM... WHERE IS THIS PLACE?
HUH?
IT'S PRETTY COOL, RIGHT?


ACTUALLY... THIS IS A PLACE THAT HAS HELPED ME OUT A LOT IN THE PAST.

WELCOME, AOI-KUN. IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU.
TEN FIFTEEN
HI~ PLEASE HELP ME OUT AGAIN~

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# Baby Steps

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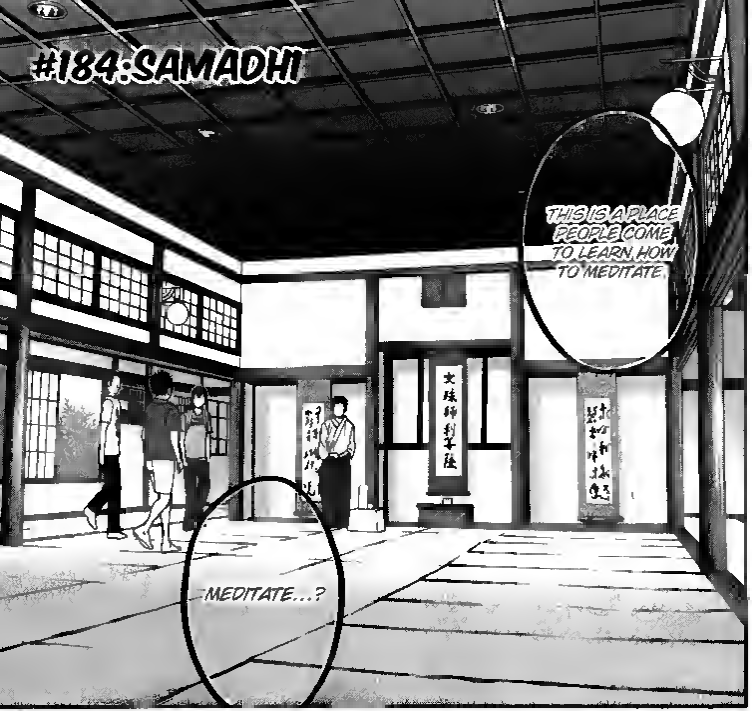
Typesetter: CraN
Checker: LordLestat


#184:SAMADHI
THIS IS A PLACE PEOPLE COME TO LEARN HOW TO MEDITATE.
...MEDITATE...?

THERE ARE PLENTY OF SPORTSMEN LIKE YOU THAT COME HERE TO INQUIRE US.
SEEMS LIKE THERE IS SOME-THING.
ESPECIALLY ON SPORTS LIKE SPRINTING, GOLF, OR GYMNASTICS THAT REQUIRE STRONG CONCENTRATION DURING THE RIGHT MOMENTS.

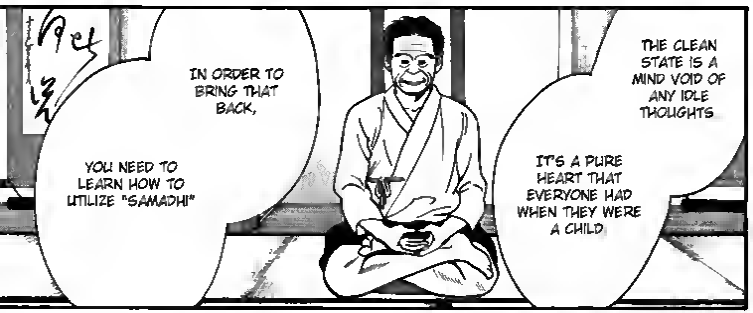
UMM... WHAT DOES MEDITATING HAS TO DO WITH THE ZONE?

WELL, JUST TRY IT FIRST.
I SEE.
TEN
ONCE YOU GOT THE RIGHT SITTING POSTURE, I'LL START BY GIVING YOU A QUICK EXPLANATION ABOUT MEDITATION.
FIRST, MEDITATION IS PART OF A SERIES OF TRAINING
THAT IS REQUIRED TO ACHIEVE THE "ENLIGHTENMENT" TAUGHT BY BUDDHA

"ENLIGHTENMENT" IS A CLEAN STATE OF MIND THAT IS INSIDE EVERY HUMAN BEING.
IT IS ESSENTIALLY DISCOVERING YOUR TRUE SELF.
カキカキ
カキカキ
TEN'

Enlig ent?!
TEN'

UMM, EXCUSE ME MAY I TAKE NOTES?
OF COURSE, GO AHEAD.


THE CLEAN STATE IS A MIND VOID OF ANY IDLE THOUGHTS.
IT'S A PURE HEART THAT EVERYONE HAD WHEN THEY WERE A CHILD.
IN ORDER TO BRING THAT BACK,
YOU NEED TO LEARN HOW TO UTILIZE "SAMADHI"

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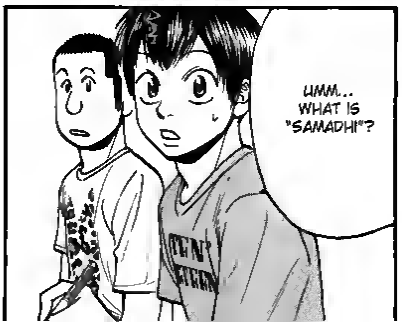

UMM... WHAT IS "SAMADHI"?
TEN'

文殊師利
SAMADHI IS THE STATE WHERE YOU ARE ABLE TO FOCUS SOLELY ON WHAT IS IN FRONT OF YOU.
IT IS BASICALLY A STATE OF INTENSE CONCENTRATION.
I HEARD THAT MARUO-KUN IS LIVING THE LIFE OF TENNIS SAMADHI RIGHT NOW.
TEN
FIFTEEN
THAT'S RIGHT.
ZONE IS ALSO A STATE WHERE YOU CONCENTRATE ON WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU
THEN.. WHY DON'T WE TRY TO PUT IT TO PRACTICE?
Y-YES PLEASE
THE SAMADHI THAT YOU ACHIEVE THROUGH MEDITATION,
SEEMS TO BE A VERY USEFUL STATE IN EVERY SPORT.

FIRST, MAINTAIN YOUR CURRENT POSITION,
THEN RELAX YOUR SHOULDERS.
THAT'S RIGHT... AND NATURALLY CLOSE YOUR MOUTH.
LET YOUR TONGUE FILL UP THE BACK OF YOUR TEETH.
THAT WAY, YOU NATURALLY START BREATHING WITH JUST YOUR NOSE.
THIS POSTURE IS PRETTY RELAXING...
DON'T LET YOUR EYE FOCUS ON AN OBJECT.
TRY TO HAVE YOUR EYES VAGUELY LOOKING AT A SPACE THAT'S ABOUT A METER AND A HALF IN FRONT.
OH, THIS FEELS
REALLY NATURALLY AND RELAXING

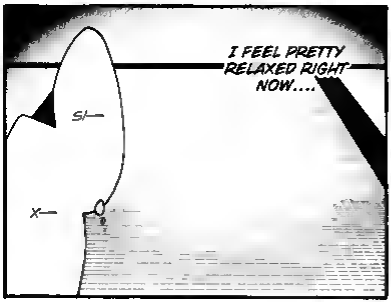
TEN
FIFTEEN
YUP
BOTH OF YOU ARE LOOKING GOOD
NOW, TRY TO START COUNTING YOUR BREATH IN YOUR HEAD
MY BREATH...?
BREATHING IN AND OUT IS ONE
THE NEXT TIME YOU BREATH IN AND OUT IS TWO
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL
THERE ARE THREE MORE CONDITIONS

善
FIRST, "YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE COUNTING PROPERLY".
11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
I WONDER HOW LONG I'VE BEEN DOING THIS.
SECOND, "YOU NEED TO BE FREE OF IDLE THOUGHTS".
IN OTHER WORDS, YOU ARE FORBIDDEN FROM THINKING ANYTHING OTHER THAN COUNTING YOUR BREATH.
1
2
3
4
5
LASTLY, IF YOU VIOLATE ANY OF THE FIRST TWO RULES, "YOU NEED TO START BACK FROM ONE".
ALTHOUGH YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO THIS UNTIL THE INCENSE FINISHES BURNING, WHICH IS FOR ABOUT 45 MINUTES.
BUT SINCE TODAY IS YOUR FIRST TIME, LET'S TRY TO GET UP TO A HUNDRED.
I THOUGHT MEDITATION WAS ALL ABOUT JUST SITTING STRAIGHT.
BUT IT'S ABOUT COUNTING YOUR BREATH...
THEN, START!

TWO—
OOOO—
TEN
FIFTEEN

O—
BREATH IN.
NE—
BREATH OUT.

TEN
FIFTEEN


I FEEL PRETTY RELAXED RIGHT NOW....
SI—
X—

HMM. FEELING PRETTY GOOD...
FI—
VE—

SHOOT I NEED TO START OVER.
WHEN DID I START THINKING OTHER STUFF?
AH
BUT, CAN I REALLY GET IN THE ZONE WITH THIS?
SE— VEN—
TEN FIFTEEN
NO, NO... NOT AGAIN!!!
OKAY... I'M DOING BETTER THAN LAST TIME... WAIT A SEC!
SE— VE—N

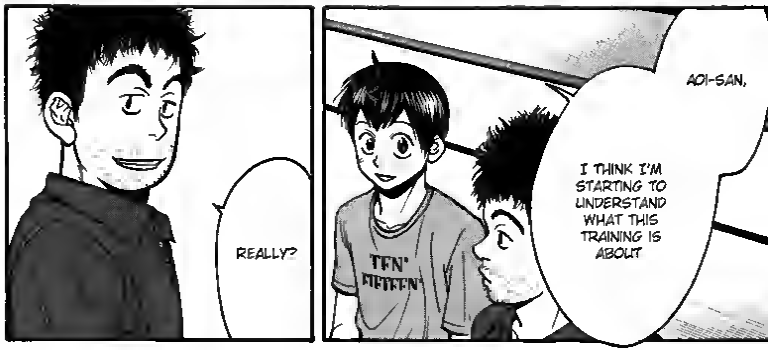
W. IT... THIS FEELS PRETTY SIMILAR TO WHAT I DID IN THAT MATCH...
THIS IS NOT GOOD...!
DON'T GET DISTRACTED...
FOCUS ONLY ON COUNTING YOUR BREATH!!!
Phew...
DAMN CICADAS!!!
ONE.
IF I HAVE TO IGNORE ALL THIS...
IT'S HOT AND MY BACK'S COVERED IN SWEAT
THE CICADAS ARE ANNOYING...
STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN

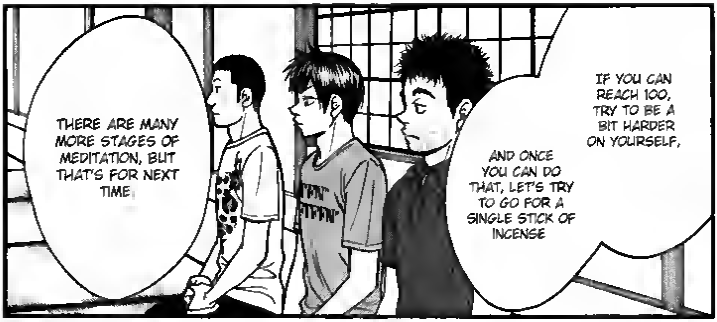
Screw 100. I can't even get past 10...
THIS IS... PRETTY DIFFICULT...
チラッ
R-REALLY?
LOOKS LIKE MARUO-KUN IS PRETTY TOUGH ON HIMSELF. YOU DON'T ALLOW ANY IDLE THOUGHTS AT ALL.
WOW...!!!
HE'S NOT DISTRACTED AT ALL!

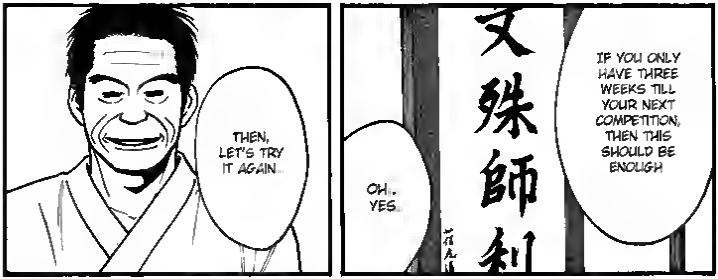
IF YOU WANT TO RESET YOUR MIND FOR A BIT, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE HIM A SIGN?
JUST BEND YOUR BACK LIKE THIS.
IT CAN HURT, BUT SHOULD FEEL REFRESHING
YES
WELL, IT'S QUITE DIFFICULT TO COUNT UP TO A HUNDRED WITHOUT ALLOWING EVEN THE SMALLEST IDLE THOUGHT.
START BY LETTING SOME DISTRACTIONS GO BY,
THEN START GOING HARD ON YOURSELF LITTLE BY LITTLE.

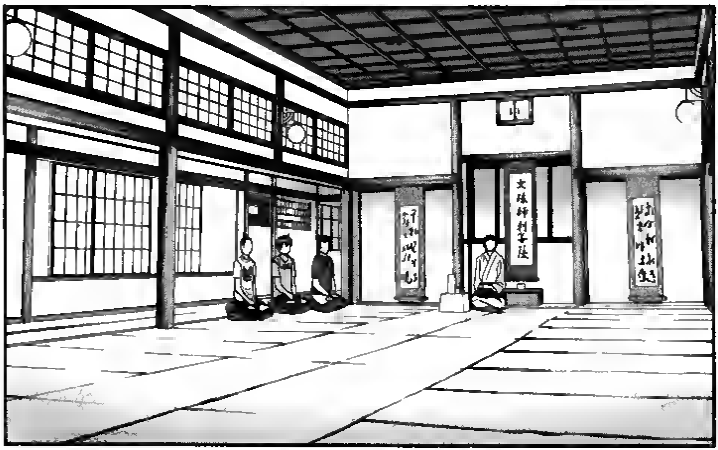
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS SO DIFFICULT TO CONCENTRATE JUST ON WHAT'S IN FRONT OF ME.
BEING ABLE TO COUNT JUST YOUR BREATH MEANS YOU ARE ABLE TO MAINTAIN A STEADY STREAM OF MIND WHICH MEANS YOU ARE CONCENTRATED.
IF THIS CONCENTRATION IS MAINTAINED CONTINUOUSLY,
YOU WILL BE ABLE TO COUNT YOUR BREATH WITHOUT TRYING TOO HARD.
THIS STATE WHERE YOU CAN DO THINGS SUBCONSCIOUSLY IS THE "SAMADHI", AND ISN'T THIS ESSENTIALLY WHAT YOU CALL "ZONE" IN SPORTS?

STEADY STREAM OF MIND IS CONCENTRATION...
AND CONTINUOUS CONCENTRATION IS ZONE...
I SEE .. THIS MIGHT BE WHAT IT MEANS TO CONSCIOUSLY DO THINGS SUBCONSCIOUSLY.


REALLY?
AOI-SAN,
I THINK I'M STARTING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS TRAINING IS ABOUT


IF YOU CAN REACH 100, TRY TO BE A BIT HARDER ON YOURSELF,
AND ONCE YOU CAN DO THAT, LET'S TRY TO GO FOR A SINGLE STICK OF INCENSE
THERE ARE MANY MORE STAGES OF MEDITATION, BUT THAT'S FOR NEXT TIME.


IF YOU ONLY HAVE THREE WEEKS TILL YOUR NEXT COMPETITION, THEN THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH
OH. YES.
THEN, LET'S TRY IT AGAIN.



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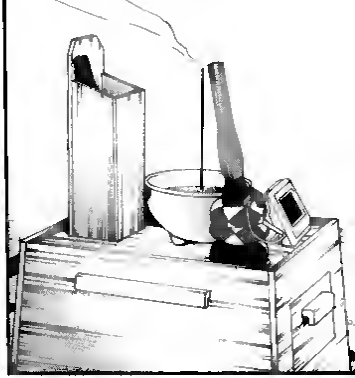

TEN
THIRTEEN

sweat

TWO—
O—NE
...OKAY... ONE MORE TIME...
TEN"
FIFTEEN"

37
38
39
ZZZZ.....
HUH?
HEY, YUKICHI-KUN...
AH... UHM... WAS I AT 30?
HOW WOULD I KNOW?!
Huh?
THIS IS REALLY HARD!!!
HEY GUYS, STAY FOCUSED!

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# Baby Steps

ベイビーステップ

RAWs: Imangascans
Cleaner: Stark & MrHame
Translator: Ruggia
Typesetter: LeKaa
Proofreader: Reika
Q.Checker: LordLestat

EIICHIRO, BREAKFAST IS READY~
EIICHIRO?
ボー!
!?
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?
AH, MORNING, MOM
IT'S MEDITATION IT'S PART OF MY TENNIS TRAINING
HMM..
WELL, AT LEAST RESPOND WHEN YOU ARE CALLED, GOT IT?
YOU ARE NOT GOING TO START SAYING YOU ARE GOING TO BE A MONK, RIGHT?
DON'T WORRY!

# #185: THE OTHER CHAMPIONSHIP

AH... IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO
BE CAREFUL, OKAY? AND DON'T FORGET TO CALL ONCE YOU GET THERE
I KNOW, I KNOW
WELL, SEE YOU LATER!
IT'S FINALLY AUGUST.
FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS, NOT ONLY DID I PUSH MY BODY TO ITS LIMITS,
I ALSO STRENGTHENED MY STROKES BY TRAINING MY WAIST AND TRUNK. I ALSO ADDED MORE PATTERNS TO MY CHANGE OF PACE.
AND THE MORE I MEDITATE, THE MORE I FEEL I'M ABLE TO CONCENTRATE HARDER AT CRITICAL MOMENTS.

新横浜
しんよこはま
Shin yokoham
しながわ
Shinagawa
THERE IS ONE MORE THING
AND NOW THAT THERE'S ONLY ONE MORE WEEK LEFT TILL ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR,
THAT I DEFINITELY NEED TO GET A HOLD OF TILL THEN.
AND THAT IS...
THE LATEST DATA ON THE TOP LEVEL NATIONAL PLAYERS.
平成××年度
全国高等学校総合体育大会

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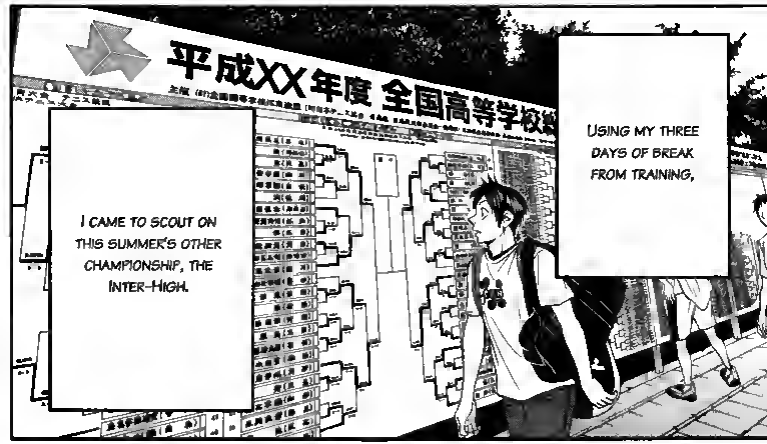

平成XX年度 全国高等学校
I CAME TO SCOUT ON THIS SUMMER'S OTHER CHAMPIONSHIP, THE INTER-HIGH.
USING MY THREE DAYS OF BREAK FROM TRAINING,

BUT... THAT WAS PRETTY FAR... IT'S 3PM ALREADY.
IT'S MY LAST CHANCE TO CAREFULLY WATCH THE TOP PLAYERS
I CAN'T PARTICIPATE BECAUSE I'M NOT PART OF THE HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS, BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR PLAYERS HERE

I WAS PLANNING ON SCOUTING FROM TOMORROW MORNING,
BUT I WONDER IF THEY'RE STILL PLAYING.
TODAY IS THE SEMI-FINALS FOR THE TEAM MATCHES
IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, ARAYA-KUN'S AND MIYAGAWA-KUN'S SCHOOLS ARE HERE FROM KANAGAWA.
キラー本〜〜ッ!!
THAT WAS... ARAYA-KUN?
GATHER UP!
OKAY!!!

GOOD JOB, EVERY-ONE.
WE REALLY DID WELL TILL THE VERY END.
I..
ARGH!
RGH
I AM REALLY PROUD OF ALL OF US WE MANAGED TO PLAY BY OUR STYLE TILL THE VERY END...
ARAYA-SAN.

I BELIEVE IN YOU!
YES!!!
YOU GUYS HAVE TO FULFILL THE DREAM WE SENIORS COULDN'T ACHIEVE!
YOU CAN DEFINITELY DO IT NEXT YEAR!

WOW... I NEVER PLAYED IN TEAMS BEFORE, BUT THE ATMOSPHERE IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT...
OH, MARUO YOU ARE FINALLY HERE
GEEZ, WE LOST ALREADY
L-LOOKS LIKE IT.
BY THE WAY, YOU SAID YOU ARE ONLY HERE FOR TOMORROW'S TEAM FINALS AND THE DAY AFTER'S FIRST ROUND OF SINGLES, RIGHT?
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO WATCH THE TEAM ROUNDS?
OH, THAT'S BECAUSE...
WELL, CONSIDERING THIS YEAR'S TEAM, WE DID PRETTY WELL GETTING THIS FAR

IF YOU ARE GOING TO WATCH THE INTER-HIGH, YOU SHOULD TAKE A LOOK AT THE TEAM ROUNDS, TOO.
WHY?
GUYS WHO ARE STRONG IN TEAM ROUNDS COME UP IN THE SINGLES, TOO
AND THEY USUALLY END UP BEING PRETTY TOUGH.
YOU'LL GET IT ONCE YOU SEE THE ATMOSPHERE.
...THAT'S WHAT AOI-SAN SAID.
I SEE
WELL, HE'S KIND OF RIGHT. ESPECIALLY THIS YEAR, THERE'S...
ドン
ズン
ズズッ
将正

THERE YOU ARE! ARAYA-KUN!
KANDA?
HUH? THAT'S KANDA-KUN?
HE LOOKS TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN IN LAST YEAR'S ALL-JAPAN...
ARAYA-KUN, I'M SORRY, BUT...
CAN YOU PLEASE BE MY TRAINING PARTNER FOR A BIT?
TRAINING PARTNER? WHY ME?
I WANT TO PRACTICE HITTING HARD WITH MY LEFT FOR TOMORROW.
HMMM...

IF IT'S GOING TO BE QUICK, SURE.
REALLY?
HEY~ CAPTAIN!
SHIRAE-SAN!
ARAYA-SAN SAYS HE'S OKAY!
ズラッ

NO WORRIES, SHIRAE. IT'LL BE GOOD FOR ME, TOO.
涼正
ALTHOUGH IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU CAN DO IT...
ARE YOU SURE, ARAYA?
TAKING UP YOUR TIME WITHOUT ANY PREVIOUS NOTICE...
KABAI TECH SCHOOL'S A REALLY COMPETITIVE TEAM.
T-THAT TEAM IS SO HUGE.
HUH...? WASN'T KANDA-KUN IN Y. NAISE HIGH?
OKAY, KANDA! DON'T BOTHER HIM TOO MUCH, OKAY?
YES, SIR!
U-UMM...
AH, CAN I WATCH?
WHY DON'T WE DO IT OVER THERE?
THEN, KANDA.

HUH?!
I-I'M SO SORRY!
THAT WAS ALL A LIE.
YOU SEE... BECAUSE OUR TEAM IS SO STRICT, I CAN'T GET OUT OF OUR ROOM UNLESS IT'S FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
T-THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO DO ALONE.

YOU UNDERSTAND, RIGHT, ARAYA-KUN? THE PRESSURE OF BEING THE SCHOOL'S BEST PLAYER
IT'S PRETTY STRESSFUL FOR A 2ND YEAR LIKE ME TO BE SHOULDERING SO MUCH PRESSURE FROM MY TEAMMATES
SO I REALLY NEED TO HAVE SOME TIME ALONE FOR ME TO CONCENTRATE.
IF IT HELPS ME WIN AND MAKE MY SENIORS HAPPY, THIS SORT OF WHITE LIE IS PRETTY FORGIVABLE, RIGHT?

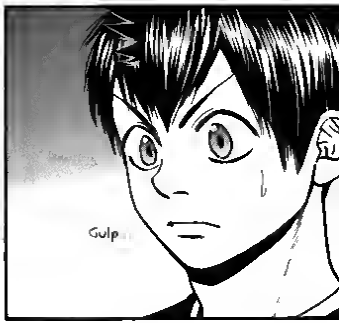
IF I GET CAUGHT, THEY'LL SHAVE MY HEAD AGAIN.
It took so long to get this much back.
BUT PLEASE KEEP IT A SECRET, OKAY?
SURE, WHATEVER.
THANK YOU SO MUCH, ARAYA-KUN!
K-KANDA-KUN CHANGED QUITE A BIT.
THEN SEE YOU!
KABAI TECH SCHOOL'S TENNIS TEAM MANDATES LIVING IN THE DORM, AND SOME EVEN CALL IT A PRISON.
IT JUST SHOWS HOW HARD THEY'RE MADE TO WORK
YEAH, HE'S GONE THROUGH A LOT OF CHANGE BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY THIS YEAR
AS A RESULT, HE'S GOTTEN PRETTY STRONG.
A PRISON?
What the ?

WELL, I WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO TOMORROW, TOO, SO I'LL HELP YOU SCOUT THE TEAM MATCHES
THANK YOU SO MUCH
IN EXCHANGE, HELP ME WITH PRACTICE. YOU BROUGHT YOUR RACKET, RIGHT?
DID HE JUST SWITCH TO TRAINING MODE?
NEXT DAY— INTER HIGH TEAM FINALS
ONE SHOT BAM!
ONE SHOT BAM!
ONE SHOT BAM!

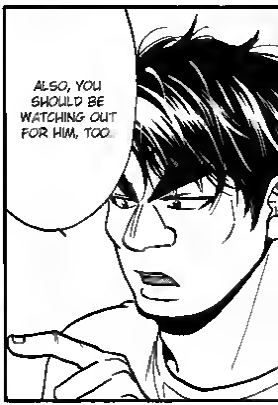
やろうぜよ!!
SFX: LET'S DO IT!
AH IT'S KANDA-KUN ... WAIT
WHAT A CHEER
つるーん
H-HE'S GONE BALD?!
鹿

I HEARD FROM SHIRAE LAST NIGHT. APPARENTLY, THEY WERE SPYING ON HIM BECAUSE "KANDA BEING TOO EAGER TO PRACTICE SEEMS SUSPICIOUS".
AND AS EXPECTED, THEY CAUGHT HIM RED-HANDED ON A DATE WITH A GIRL.
HUH...? DIDN'T HE SAY HE WANTED SOME TIME ALONE...?
WELL, HE CAN BE A SLACKER, BUT STILL HIS ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR RANKING IS SECOND ONLY TO NABAE.
SO, OF COURSE, HE'S THE INDISPUTABLE NO. 1 OF THE VETERAN KABAI TECH SCHOOL.

I SHOULD KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HIM!


Gulp

THEIR OPPONENT, KINSEI HIGH'S NO. 2, OGATA KATSUMI.


ALSO, YOU SHOULD BE WATCHING OUT FOR HIM, TOO.

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# Baby Steps

ベイビーステップ

RAWs: imangascans

Translator: Ruggia

Proofreader: Reika

Cleaner: Stark

Typesetter: LeKaa

Q.C Checker: LordLestat

#186: KANDA HISASHI

オォ
KABAI'S BIGGEST GOAL ISN'T WINNING THE INDIVIDUAL ROUNDS, BUT BECOMING THE NO. 1 TEAM IN THE NATION.
THAT IS THE AICHI REPRESENTATIVE, KABAI TECH HIGH SCHOOL.
WHAT A PRESSURE...! THEY'RE TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS.
ALSO, ALL THE PLAYERS IN THEIR VARSITY TEAM WILL BE PLAYING IN ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR
SINCE THEY ARE ALL LIVING IN THE SAME DORM TOGETHER AND WORKING TOWARDS THE SAME GOAL, THEY'VE GOT STRONG TEAM SPIRIT.
THE VARSITY TEAM IS COMPOSED OF FIVE PLAYERS, TWO SINGLES, ONE DOUBLE AND A SUB.
EVEN THOUGH HE'S A DUMBASS WHOSE HEAD GETS SHAVED BALD THE NIGHT BEFORE THE FINALS, HIS SKILLS ARE ON A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.
OBVIOUSLY, THEIR KEY PLAYER IS THE FIRST SINGLE, KANDA

I WAS WONDERING...
WASN'T KANDA-KUN IN YAMASE HIGH LAST YEAR?
OH, GOOD MEMORIES.
APPARENTLY, HIS PARENTS GOT TRANSFERRED TO AMERICA.
AND HE GOT LEFT BEHIND IN JAPAN, SO HE WENT TO KABAI SINCE IT IS A STRONG SCHOOL WITH A DORM.
THAT MEANS... HE VOLUNTEERED TO STAY BEHIND AND PUT HIMSELF IN THE SO-CALLED "PRISON"?
YUP... APPARENTLY, HE HAD QUITE A TOUGH TIME WHEN HE FIRST STARTED.
I GET TO TALK WITH HIM QUITE OFTEN CAUSE WE HOLD JOINT PRACTICES WITH KABAI PRETTY OFTEN.
WHAT WAS SO TOUGH?
DESPITE HIS LOOKS, KANDA'S FAMILY IS PRETTY WELL OFF.
SO, FOR ONE, HE'S QUITE A SPOILED BRAT.
BUT REGARDLESS, KABAI'S DORM LIFE IS APPARENTLY SUPER HARD.
IT'S THE GOOD OLD WORK-YOURSELF-TO-DEATH TYPE OF PLACE.
SO THEY FORCED HIM TO OBEY THEIR WORK-HARD PHILOSOPHY.

SINCE KANDA'S GOTTEN STRONGER BECAUSE OF IT, IT ALL TURNED OUT TO BE A GOOD THING.
BUT BACK THEN, HE WAS TOTALLY OUTRAGED.
HE OFTEN MADE QUITE A SCENE SHOUTING "I GOT TRICKED" OR "I'LL MURDER YOU ALL".

*KABAI TECH HIGH SCHOOL

I quit.
LET'S HEAR YOUR STORY FIRST.
WHY?
THIS PLACE IS TOTALLY UNREASONABLE
.....
Kaban Tech High School
1st Year Kanda Higashi

I HAVE EXPERIENCE WINNING THE NATIONALS IN MY OLD SCHOOL,
AND I'M BETTER THAN ANYONE HERE
SO THEY SHOULD LET ME PRACTICE THE WAY I WANT
Oh,
AND I GET FORCED TO RUN ENDLESSLY AS PENALTY. I DON'T EVEN GET TO TOUCH THE BALL BECAUSE OF IT.
AND IF I ASK FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT, ALL I GET IS "THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK TO AN UPPERCLASSMEN"
THE ONLY PRACTICE WE DO ARE 2-ON-1 DRILLS,
I quit
IF YOU DON'T RECONSIDER THE TRAINING STRUCTURE, I'LL QUIT.
EXACTLY! SO...
SO YOU ARE SAYING, YOU CAN'T GET STRONGER WITH OUR METHODS?

SAY SUCH A THING?
HOW CAN A BRAT LIKE YOU WHO CAN'T EVEN BE THE TOP OF JUNIOR
THEY ALL WENT THROUGH OUR TRAINING AND CHALLENGED THE WORLD WHILE STAYING ON THE TOP OF JAPAN.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF TOP-LEVEL PROS AMONGST OUR ALUM
YOU ARE JUST WHINING ABOUT THE PRACTICE BEING TOO HARD
SFX: RGH!
BUT STILL, IT'S YOUR FREEDOM TO QUIT.
HOWEVER, SINCE YOU GOT ADMITTED TO THIS SCHOOL FOR TENNIS,
!?
IF YOU QUIT THE TEAM, YOU WON'T BE ALLOWED TO STAY IN THE SCHOOL.
COME BACK ONCE YOU'RE READY TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES

What's wrong? Are you outside?
CELL PHONES ARE FORBIDDEN IN THE DORM.
AND IF I TRY TO SPEAK UP, THEY MAKE ME RUN UNTIL I PUKE!
THEY DON'T LET ME GO OUT OF MY ROOM AT NIGHT,
PRACTICE IS SO POINTLESS AND MAKES ME WORK TO DEATH.
IT'S HELL!
ANYWAY, WHAT THE HECK IS THIS PLACE?
SO, MOM... I THINK I'LL GO TO AMERICA, TOO...
AND WHEN I TRIED TO QUIT THE TEAM,
THEY SAID I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL TOO...

!
No... You are the one who said you won't go overseas until you become No. 1 in Japan.
Isn't that why you picked a school with a dorm and a strong tennis team?
.....
Hisashi... I think we spoiled you too much...
HUH... NO WAY... MOM, YOU KNEW ABOUT THIS PLACE?
THAT'S TRUE... BUT I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS...
...You can do it, Hisashi.
カリ
チャ
SHIT!
It's hard for me to hear that you are having a tough time
But if you really want to become stronger, you need to overcome this

KABAI FIGHT !!!
NEXT ONE, PLEASE !!!
RGH!

IT'S BEEN OVER TEN...
NO, OVER FIFTEEN MINUTES ALREADY!!!
HOW MUCH LONGER ARE THEY GONNA MAKE ME DO THIS?!
RGH!
COACH!!!
THEY AREN'T ALLOWED TO STOP UNTIL YOU SAY SO
SAY "STOP" ALREADY!!!

WHOA?!
YOU'RE FREAKIN' KIDDING ME!!!
HOW THE HECK DO YOU FALL ASLEEP WHEN EVERYONE S GOING THROUGH HELL?!
KAKAI FIIII- IIGHT!!!
ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!
SAME FOR YOU GUYS!
IF YOU UPPERCLASSMEN ARE SO GREAT, THEN WHY DON'T YOU GO WAKE UP [illegible] SHITTY COACH?

!
HEY, KANDA! GET UP!!!
N-NEXT ONE, PLEAAAAASE!!!

SFX: TWITCH
YEAH, GET UP!!!
!!
SAY "STOP" YOU PIECE OF SHIT.
...GET UP ALREADY!!!
NEXT-TTTTT!!!

STILL NOT ENOUGH
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY GUTS AT ALL
YOU ARE IN NO POSITION
TO BE LECTURING ABOUT HOW WE PRACTICE

YOU ARE IN THE WAY.
GET OUT!
KABAI FIGHT !!!
SHIT...

1/10
SHIT....
SHIT
SHIT
SHIT
SHIT
SHIT
SHIT
SHIT
...
I'M GONNA FUCKING MURDER ALL OF YOU...!!!

THAT'S... PRETTY MUCH HOW HE SPENT HIS DAYS OF HELL.
ポカーン
THAT'S REALLY ALL THEY DO?
WHO KNOWS? WELL, I'M SURE THERE WERE OTHER STUFF, TOO,
BUT EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM MADE HIM WORK PAST HIS LIMITS.
Every single day with no break.
W-WOW .
IT'S UNTHINKABLE IN STC TO ADVOCATE HIGH-EFFICIENCY TRAININGS, RIGHT?
THERE ARE SOME WHO CALL IT BRAINLESS AND OUTDATED,
BUT IT WAS PERFECT FOR KANDA.

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rc.rchighway.net

# Baby Steps

ベイビーステップ

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Proofreader: Reika

Cleaner: Stark

Typesetter: LeKaa

Q.C Checker: LordLestat

First Single
Kabai Tech
Kanda Hisashi
(2nd Year)
VS.
Kinsei
Sumiyoshi Kaoru
(2nd Year)


Second Single
Kabai Tech
Shirae Shinichi
(3rd Year)
VS.
Kinsei
Ogata Katsumi
(3rd Year)

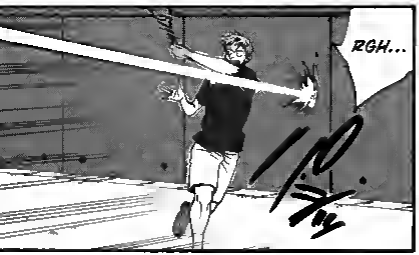
# #187: SMASH!

Doubles
Kabai Tech
Kosugi Masa
(3rd Year)
Hayashi Daisuke
(2nd Year)
VS
Kinsei
Uemura Minoru
(3rd Year)
Nono Zakikaito
(3rd Year)
近清

FIRST POINT!!!
FIRST POINT FOR KABAI!!!
HE MUST BE FEELING QUITE A LOT OF PRESSURE, TOO
THE MATCH WITH IDE-KUN WAS AMAZING TOO, BUT THIS IS EVEN BIGGER
I'VE NEVER SEEN A MATCH START WITH SUCH A HUGE CROWD
THE TEAM THAT WINS TWO OUT OF THE THREE MATCHES WINS, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT

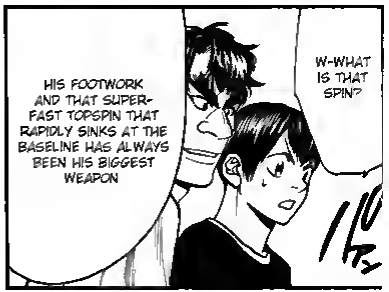
KANDA'S OPPONENT IS SUMIYOSHI KAORU.
HE'S A SUPER AGGRESSIVE BASELINER THAT GOES FOR AN ACE FROM EVERYWHERE.
AND HE'LL BE IN ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR, TOO.
GRRR...
DOES SUMIYOSHI-KUN HAVE A BROTHER?
OH, YOU KNOW HIM?
I MET HIM ONCE BEFORE.
†See vol 6&7
WELL, BOTH BROTHERS HAVE THE SAME FACE AND PLAY STYLE.
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT HE'S A LEFTY.
HIS BROTHER IS ALSO QUITE A PLAYER, BUT HE CAN BE AN EVEN TOUGHER OPPONENT BECAUSE OF IT.

WOW... HIS FOOTWORK IS SO PRECISE, SMOOTH, AND FAST.
OUT?!
ぎゅん


RGH...

IT SANK?!

I THINK KABAI WAS THE IDEAL ENVIRONMENT FOR HIM TO POLISH BOTH OF THEM BY RUNNING HIMSELF TO DEATH


HIS FOOTWORK AND THAT SUPER-FAST TOPSPIN THAT RAPIDLY SINKS AT THE BASELINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HIS BIGGEST WEAPON
W-WHAT IS THAT SPIN?

AND ANOTHER THING HE EARNED FROM KABAI,
IS THAT RELENTLESS NERVE.

Kabai's Legendary 100 smash!!!

ARGH, NO GOOD. NO GOOD.
SMASH IS ALL ABOUT HOW HARD YOU SLAM IT!
LISTEN CAREFULLY A SMASH ISN'T ABOUT TECHNIQUE
WHERE YOU HIT IS IMPORTANT, TOO

はあ？
bobo
SFX: WHAT????
IT'S ABOUT GUTS
くいっ
IF YOU SLACK OFF EVEN FOR A BIT, WE'LL START ALL OVER!
C'MON, SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
WAIT A SECOND! I'M ONLY TWO AWAY FROM 100...
SO HIGH!
HECK, IT'S TOO FAR BACK.
AND IF I MISS, I HAVE TO START BACK FROM ONE...
AND I'M SUPPOSED TO HIT THIS AS HARD AS I CAN...

THE HELL WITH THAT !!!
チーン
99 !
YEAH! THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
HERE'S THE LAST ONE!

HEY!!!
IT'S COMPLETELY OUT OF BOUNDS!
YOU'LL NEVER RECEIVE A LOB LIKE THIS IN A MATCH!
DON'T LET IT BOUNCE! SMASH IT IN ONE FULL SWING!
THIS IS NONSENSE!
THE HELL I'LL BE ABLE TO GO THROUGH ANOTHER HUNDRED OF THESE!
THAT SHIT FACE... I'LL MAKE IT IN ONE SHOT!!!

YEAH-HHH!
TSK, TSK... YOU WERE SO CLOSE.
YOUR SWING WAS TOO STIFF.
C'MON, BACK TO SQUARE ONE. GET UP!!!
13

OH... THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.
OKAY. A HUNDRED MORE!

COMPARED TO THOSE, THIS IS...
A PIECE OF CAKE!!!

0 - 15
タン!!
BRING IT ON!!!
HECK YEAH!!!
AT KABAI, THE MOMENT YOU SHOW ANY RESILIENCE TOWARDS THE COACH OR UPPERCLASSMEN,
OR SHOW ANY SIGN OF WEAK SPIRIT, THEY PENALIZE YOU BY MAKING YOU RUN LIKE HELL

BUT THEY ENDED UP FURTHER REFINING HIS NATURALLY BRILLIANT FOOTWORK
AND HIS MENTAL STRENGTH, WHICH WERE SOME OF HIS VERY FEW WEAKNESSES BACK THEN, MAKING THEM COMPLETELY UNBREAKABLE.
APPARENTLY, HE GOT PENALIZED MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
HE SAYS HE FELL INTO DESPAIR COUNTLESS TIMES.
HUH?
ALSO, THIS IS MY PERSONAL OPINION, BUT...
THAT MEANS DISTRACTION TACTICS LIKE THE ONES TAKAGI-KUN USED ARE UNLIKELY TO WORK ON HIM.
TEAMMATES ...?
WAS HIS TIME LIVING WITH HIS TEAMMATES WHO ARE CHEERING FOR HIM.
I THINK KANDA'S BIGGEST GAIN FROM GOING TO KABAI

WHETHER IT'S PRACTICE OR A MATCH, YOU ALWAYS RUN INTO TOUGH TIMES.
I CAN RELATE BECAUSE I'M ALSO PLAYING IN A TEAM.
BUT DURING THOSE MOMENTS, IT REALLY HELPS TO HAVE TEAMMATES WHO CHEER FOR YOU AND SHARE THE SAME SPIRIT.
NICE!!!
PEOPLE USUALLY CAN'T STAY MOTIVATED WHEN THEY'RE LIVING IN A HELLISH ENVIRONMENT, RIGHT?
BUT THEY MANAGED TO PULL THROUGH BY HELPING EACH OTHER OUT SINCE THEY ARE IN SIMILAR SITUATIONS.
TEAMMATES, HUH
I FEEL LIKE HIS STRENGTH COMES FROM THINKING "I AM PLAYING FOR MY TEAMMATES" DEEP DOWN HIS HEART

QUICK, QUICK.
YOU HAVE TO RUN AGAIN AT NIGHT, RIGHT?
EH... BUT...
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST, SO GO.
AH?
YOU CAN PAY BACK ANYTIME YOU WANT
GOT IT.
GO, KANDA !!!

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FAST, EXACT, AND PRECISE FOOTWORK.
A POWERFUL TOPSPIN THAT RAPIDLY SINKS AT THE BASELINE.

GRRR!

...AND HIS NERVE TO HIT THAT WITH A RISING...
ドゥン
HECK YEAH!!!
OFFENSIVE TENNIS PERFECTED THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF HIS TEAMMATES.
THAT'S IT KANDA!!! TAKE THE POINT!!!
THIS IS THE PLAYER WHO'S SECOND ONLY TO NABAE-KUN.

NICE SHOT, OGATA!!!
THAT OGATA LOOKS LIKE HE'S FINALLY BACK IN SHAPE.
HE WAS PRETTY MUCH THE NUMBER ONE OF OUR GENERATION UNTIL IKE SOUJI SHOWED UP.
HUH?! REALLY?!
近清

HE DAMAGED HIS KNEE DURING A MATCH, AND SPENT THREE YEARS IN REHAB.
AFTER OVERCOMING ALL THAT, IT TOOK HIM A WHOLE YEAR TO FINALLY COME BACK TO NATIONAL LEVEL.

HE GOT INJURED IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND HE WASN'T ABLE TO PLAY FOR A WHILE SINCE THEN.
OF COURSE YOU WON'T KNOW HIM.
INJURED ...?

BUT HE SHOULD BE THE REAL NO. 1 IN TERMS OF REAL SKILLS
HE'S KINSEI'S NO. 2 BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF MATCH EXPERIENCE DUE TO HIS ABSENCE.

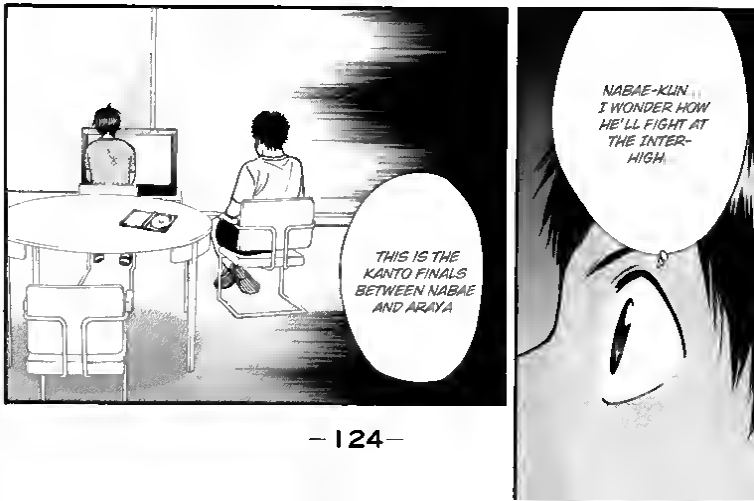
HE'S TURNING INTO A BIG THREAT EVER SINCE HE STARTED PLAYING FOR REAL.

TURN IT AROUND, KINSEI!!!
GO, KABA!!!
鹿梅工

LET'S FINISH IT HERE, KABA!!!
INTER-HIGH TEAM FINALS, KABAI TECH VS KINSEI,
ENDED WITH 1-1 FOR SINGLES, 1-0 FOR DOUBLES. WITH A TOTAL OF 2-1.
KABAI TECH ACHIEVED THEIR 14TH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
AND ENDED THEIR THREE-YEAR-LONG ABSENCE.
男子優勝

■BOY'S SINGLES

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | NABAE YUU | ③ | （東京・長清中央） |
| 2 | 岸辺　雅人 | ② | （大分・立花大附） |
| 3 | 野崎　淳 | ③ | （新潟・南御厨） |
| 4 | 中川　広大 | ② | （北海道・苫小牧北） |



PA—M
PAM
HUH..? ISN'T NABAE-KUN BEING TOO FORCEFUL AGAINST ARAYA-KUN?
YEAH!
YOU ARE RIGHT
TUD
OUT. 30 - 15.

WHY?
IT'S NOT IN LINE WITH NABAE-KUN'S STYLE OF CHANGING THE WAY HE PLAYS DEPENDING ON THE OPPONENT...
IN FACT, IT'S THE EXACT OPPOSITE
HE'S TRYING TO TAKE THE UPPERHAND
IN ARAYA-KUN'S FAVORITE POWER BATTLE...
ORAAA
PAM
30 - 30.
!
WOW... HE'S NOT YIELDING EVEN IN A POWER BATTLE!

DOES THIS MEAN HE SUDDENLY SWITCHED TO A POWER-ORIENTED STYLE..?
PAAAM
OR...
MARUO-KUN?
AH, IDE-KUN AND OKADA-KUN
I KNEW IT!
HUH? WAS MARUO-KUN PLAYING IN INTER-HIGH?
NO, I'M NOT PLAYING, BUT I CAME TO WATCH
芦尾崎
藤原

MORN-ING~
OH, ARAYA.
HEY.

OH, SERIOUSLY? IT MUST HAVE BEEN A LONG TRIP! NO WONDER YOU ARE THE NOTE MONSTER!

KANDA

HEY, KANDA!

I HEARD YOU LIED TO ME AND WENT TO SEE A GIRL.
I'LL FORGIVE YOU, SO DON'T RUN AWAY!
SO NOT ONLY DID YOU LOSE THE GIRL, BUT YOU BECAME BALD!!!
HEY!
HEY!
HEY!
PLEASE STOP! YOU'VE GOT THE LOUDEST VOICE IN THE PLANET!
WHAT? WHAT? TELL ME MORE!
HUH?

OH, NABAE.
WHAT'S WITH THE PARTY?
OH, KANDA. LONG TIME NO SEE.
ARGH... LOOK WHO'S HERE.
CONGRATS ON WINNING THE TEAM ROUND.
W-WHY SO HOSTILE...?
High and mighty aren't you?

HUH? ARE YOU THE MARUO WHO CAME CLOSE TO BEATING NABE-KUN IN KANTO'S SEMIFINALS?
AH... YES, THAT'S ME.
!
I KNEW YOU'D BE HERE, MARUO-KUN.
AH, YUP.
WHAT'S WITH THE ATTITUDE?
WELL, HE WAS TALKING SO POLITELY, SO...
HMMM... SO YOU STARTED TENNIS IN HIGH SCHOOL AND MADE IT TO ALL-JAPAN?
I READ IN A MAGAZINE ABOUT HOW STC HAS SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF TRAININGS.
じろじろ
IT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM MY PLACE. I'M SO JEALOUS.
OH, WELL, BYE BYE, SENIORS~ I'M HEADING OFF.

I'LL TAKE ON WHOEVER COMES UP IN THE FINALS.

舞原
長浜中
REALLY? I THINK HE'S PRETTY FUN.
I don't hate him
HE'S JUST FEELING HIGH FROM WINNING THE TEAM FINALS.
DAMN THAT ARROGANT BASTARD.
IT'S 9 AM. ALL PARTICIPATING PLAYERS, PLEASE GATHER AT THE MAIN OFFICE.
...
WELL, HIS SKILLS BACK HIM UP.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING BATTLES A WEEK FROM NOW...
TODAY, I'LL KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON THEIR EVERY MOVE

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# RECRUITMENT

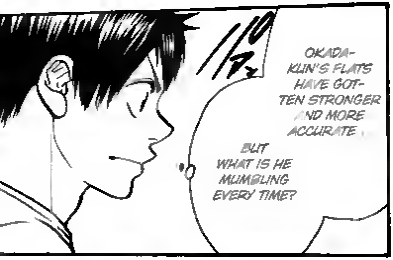
YOU! YES, YOU! THE JAPANESE TRANSLATOR READING THIS AND EVEN THE REDRAWER HIDING IN HIS BASEMENT, WE NEED BOTH OF YOU FOR:

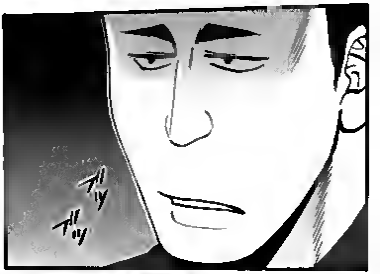
## FANTASISTA

APPLY ON OUR WEBSITE AT
HTTP://IMANGASCANS.ORG/APPLY/
OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE JOIN US ON IRCHIGHWAY.NET #IMANGASCANS

EARLY AUGUST AT STC...
#189: FUTURE ROADMAP
NEW LOCATION
ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR IS NOW ONLY FIVE DAYS AWAY AND FAST APPROACHING.
I GAINED A LOT FROM SCOUTING AT INTER-HIGH.

ORY AAA
ARAYA-KUN'S SPEED AND POWER HAVE GOTTEN EVEN STRONGER...
ON TOP OF THAT, HE STARTED ADDING SOME VARIETY
HE'S GOTTEN A LOT SMOOTHER AT LAUNCHING A VOLLEY ATTACK


OKADA-KUN'S FLATS HAVE GOTTEN STRONGER AND MORE ACCURATE
BUT WHAT IS HE MUMBLING EVERY TIME?

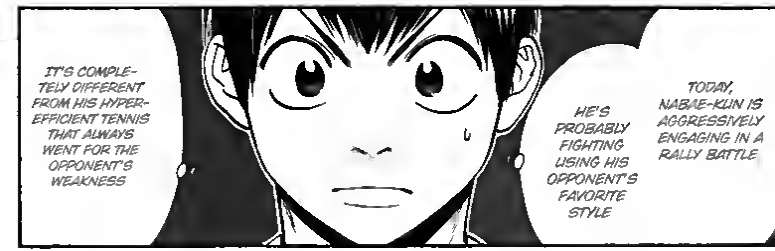


KANDA-KUN IS STILL CARRYING THE MOMENTUM FROM WINNING THE TEAM FINALS.

YEAAAAAH!!!
鹿梅工

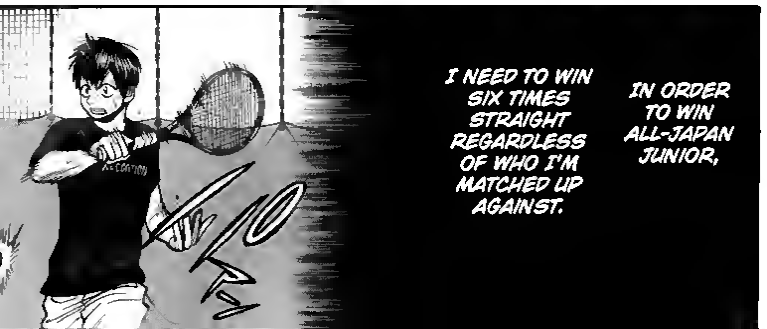
AND..

40 – 0.


TODAY, NABAE-KUN IS AGGRESSIVELY ENGAGING IN A RALLY BATTLE
HE'S PROBABLY FIGHTING USING HIS OPPONENT'S FAVORITE STYLE
IT'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HIS HYPER-EFFICIENT TENNIS THAT ALWAYS WENT FOR THE OPPONENT'S WEAKNESS

NABAE-KUN'S ULTIMATE GOAL IS AN "ALL-A TENNIS" THAT IS PERFECT IN EVERY ASPECT OF TENNIS.
IF I TREAT THIS AS HIS NEXT STEP TOWARDS THAT GOAL, THEN IT MIGHT IN FACT BE IN-LINE WITH HIS STYLE.

I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOTTEN BETTER.
EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM IS EVOLVING IN THEIR OWN WAY.
more


IN ORDER TO WIN ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR,
I NEED TO WIN SIX TIMES STRAIGHT REGARDLESS OF WHO I'M MATCHED UP AGAINST.

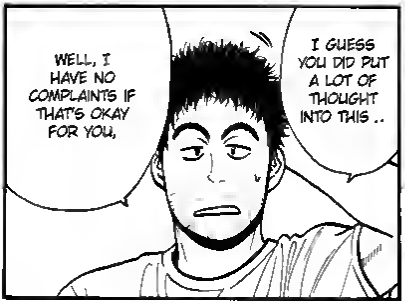
THERE'S NO "IF"!
NEW LOCATION
IF...
NO, DON'T BE SO PESSIMISTIC!!!
I'LL WIN NO MATTER WHO I'M UP AGAINST!!!

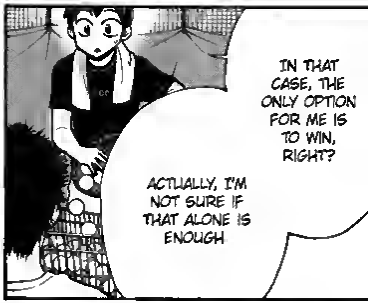
OKAY, THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY.
...
HEY, MARUO.
STC
WEREN'T YOU A LITTLE BIT DOWN TODAY?
W-WAS I?
IT SEEMED LIKE YOU WERE FEELING MORE STRESSED THAN BEING PUMPED UP FOR THE COMPETITION.
RGH ...
YOU ARE SO EASY TO READ~

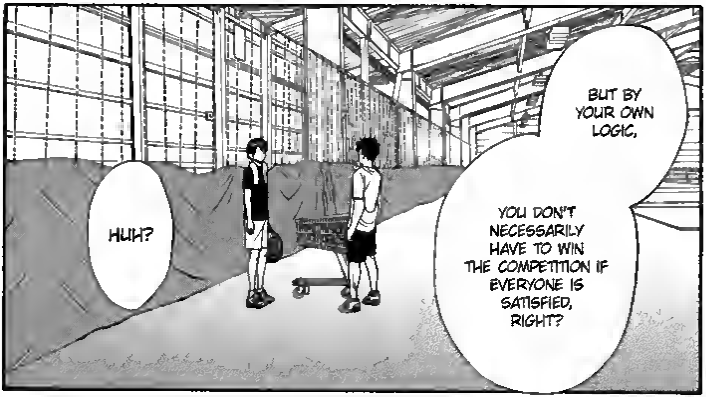
OH, THAT PROMISE YOU MADE WITH YOUR PARENTS?
ABOUT BECOMING A PRO ONLY IF YOU WIN...
WELL... IT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE.
STC
WELL, THEN HOW ABOUT THIS?
YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN'T WIN IF YOU AREN'T ENJOYING IT, RIGHT?
YOU ARE DIGGING YOUR OWN GRAVE IF THAT CREATES TOO MUCH PRESSURE
AND ENDS UP KEEPING YOU FROM PLAYING AT YOUR BEST.
WORSE CASE SCENARIO: JUST BREAK THE PROMISE.

W-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
Beg for Forgiveness or something
YOU'RE MISUNDERSTANDING, AOI-SAN.
THE REASON I'M GIVING UP TENNIS IF I LOSE ISN'T ONLY BECAUSE I PROMISED MY PARENTS.
MARUO EIGHIRO LIFE PLAN
I DID A LOT OF RESEARCH ON PROFESSIONAL TENNIS...
AND EVEN I WAS ABLE TO TELL HOW HARD THE PROFESSIONAL WORLD IS.
LIKING TENNIS IS NOT ENOUGH TO SURVIVE.

AND CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE EVERY-ONE WILL ACCEPT THAT I'M WORTHY OF PLAYING AGAINST THE BEST.
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED INTO BECOMING A PRO


WELL, I HAVE NO COMPLAINTS IF THAT'S OKAY FOR YOU,
I GUESS YOU DID PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO THIS ..


IN THAT CASE, THE ONLY OPTION FOR ME IS TO WIN, RIGHT?
ACTUALLY, I'M NOT SURE IF THAT ALONE IS ENOUGH


BUT BY YOUR OWN LOGIC,
HUH?
YOU DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO WIN THE COMPETITION IF EVERYONE IS SATISFIED, RIGHT?

Sh~re
WHAT IF A CERTAIN COMPANY SAW HOW WELL YOU PLAYED IN ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR
AND OFFERED TO SPONSOR YOU?
DOES THAT ACTUALLY HAPPEN?
WELL, I GUESS IT'S UNLIKELY IN THIS DAY AND AGE...
OH...
SINCE YOU WILL BE FINANCIALLY TROUBLED IF YOU CAN'T FIND A COMPANY TO SPONSOR YOU WHEN YOU GO PRO,
I GUESS IT MAKES SENSE FOR YOUR GOAL TO BE WINNING THE ALL-JAPAN
HMM...
BUT IF YOU CAN MAKE IT TO TOP 8, YOU SHOULD STILL BE ABLE TO GET SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS FROM UNIVERSITIES AT LEAST
SPORTS SCHOLARSHIPS?
BECOMING A PRO WHILE GOING TO COLLEGE IS ALSO A VIABLE CHOICE, BUT JUGGLING TWO THINGS AT ONCE MIGHT NOT SUIT YOU
ALSO, EVEN IF YOU GET A JOB, YOU CAN STILL JOIN A CORPORATE TEAM AND BECOME A PRO FROM THERE, TOO.
THERE ARE OTHER WAYS, TOO...
ANYWAY, WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...

I KNOW VERY WELL THAT YOU REALLY LOVE TENNIS.
SO HOW ABOUT SWITCHING FROM "IT'S THE END IF I LOSE" TO "THERE ARE PLENTY OF OPTIONS IN FRONT OF ME"?
EVEN I DIDN'T KNOW ...
GUESS THAT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS.
I'M BACK~
THAT I'D END UP LOVING TENNIS THIS MUCH .
IT WAS COMPLETELY INCONCEIVABLE FOR ME BEFORE I STARTED TENNIS .

BECAUSE TENNIS IS THE FIRST THING I DECIDED I WANT TO DO.
I WANT TO BE A PRO NO MATTER WHAT
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE...
BUT ONE THING I CAN SAY FOR SURE RIGHT NOW
I CAN'T LOSE TO ANYONE.
THAT'S WHY I NEED TO WIN NO MATTER WHAT.
BUT NO ONE KNOWS HOW IT WILL TURN OUT.
I WANT TO LIVE A LIFE THAT IS CONNECTED TO TENNIS.
IS THAT EVEN IF I HAVE TO GIVE UP ON BECOMING A PRO,

ALTHOUGH THERE'S NO CHANCE, OF A RANDOM SPONSOR GIVING ME AN OFFER,
HE DID SAY I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET A SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP IF I FINISH IN THE TOP 8...
カチ
カチ
ALTHOUGH IT'S NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO PURSUE TENNIS WHILE ATTENDING COLLEGE,
IN THAT CASE, I WOULD NEED TO KEEP UP A GOOD TRACK RECORD AGAINST PROFESSIONAL PLAYERS.
DESPITE THAT, I WON'T GET AS MUCH TIME TO PRACTICE AS PROFESSIONALS, SO IT'S GOING TO BE ESPECIALLY TOUGH FOR ME SINCE I'M ALREADY LOW ON EXPERIENCE
THIS OPTION DOESN'T SEEM VERY REALISTIC.
テニスが強い
大学
スポーツ推薦
今
優勝
プロ
大学
受験
AS I THOUGHT, WINNING IS MY ONLY OPTION IF I WANT TO GO PRO...
GOING PRO FROM A CORPORATE TEAM WILL BE EVEN HARDER BECAUSE OF AGE
実業団
テニスが強い
大学
IN THIS CASE, I'LL HAVE TO FIND TIME TO PLAY WHILE WORKING A FULL-TIME JOB
SO EVEN IF I CAN'T WIN, WHAT ARE OTHER WAYS OF STAYING CONNECTED TO TENNIS?

LIKE A CLUB COACH...
OH, AOI-SAN'S ALSO A MEDICAL COACH, RIGHT?
THAT SOUNDS PRETTY DIFFERENT FROM COACH MIKE WHO SPECIALIZED IN PSYCHOLOGICAL STUFF.
THERE'S ALSO ONOZAWA-SAN FROM A RACKET COMPANY.
HOW ABOUT JOURNALISTS FOR TENNIS MAGAZINES?
THERE ARE A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED IN TENNIS...

No Date

Do well in industry leagues and represent the company. As full-time employee can't spend all my time on tennis.

Company with strong focus on tennis

University with strong tennis team

University leagues and National Inter-College Competition becomes the No.1 goal
Need to balance tennis and studies (Don't get to practice as much as being a pro)
Highly likely to find a job at a company with a strong focus in tennis?
There are some people who become pros after college

Coach

Technical Coach
You don't need to have a license but there are licenses like Master Coach, S-Level Coach, etc. May need a broad knowledge of medical, physical, and mental?

Medical Coach
Specialize support related to injuries and accidents
Need a medical certificate for medical treatments

Physical Coach
Specialize in helping players enhance their physical ability
Need specialized knowledge such as Sports Physiology

Mental Coach
Specialize in helping players with emotional, psychological problems. Need specialized knowledge such as Psychology

No Date

Professional Tennis Player
Raise my JTA/ATP ranking and get a corporate sponsor

Within Top 8 Sports scholarship?

Win

Current me

Exams

Regular university
Continue playing tennis as much as possible

Tennis equipment maker

Designing, developing, manufacturing, or selling equipment such as racket, shoes, tennis wear etc. Support

Corporations or groups that organize tennis competitions or events

Tennis associations or big corporations that sponsor world-class competitions

Tennis related media

Tennis magazines, tennis sites, or TV

Umpire

Need a license to be an official umpire. Hard to make a living as a full-time.

IT'S NOT LIKE MY SITUATION HAS CHANGED, BUT
I KIND OF FEEL LIKE I'M MORE PREPARED...?
THIS IS A PRETTY GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MY FUTURE ROADMAP FOR NOW...
NI
?
!!
I WANT TO SEE NACCHAN ...

imangascans.org

imangascans
rc.rchighway.net

# Baby Steps

ベイビーステップ

RAWs:
Imangascans

Translator:
Ruggia

Proofreader:
Reika

Cleaner:
Stark & Michalv

Typesetter:
CraN

Q-Checker:
Georgi

ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
Three days left till All-Japan Junior.
I am standing at my usual court,
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
ザワ
ドキ
ドキ
ドキ
Surrounded by a whole bunch of people and cameras, feeling really nervous from a source unrelated to them.

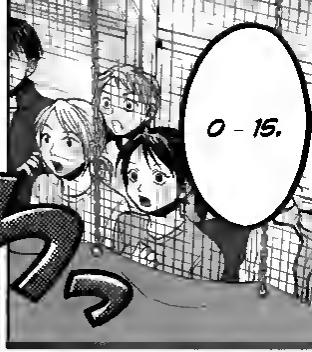
# #190: APPEAL

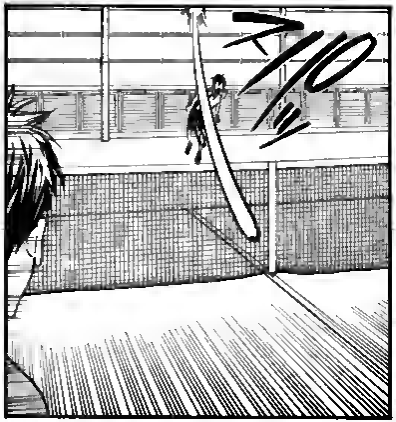
SO IKE IS GOING TO BE DROPPING BY TOMORROW.
HUH?! WHY SO SUDDEN?
APPARENTLY, HE'S BEEN GETTING A LOT OF REQUESTS FROM THE MEDIA EVER SINCE HE BEAT THE 8TH BEST PLAYER IN THE WORLD.
SO HIS SPONSOR ARRANGED AN EVENT TO DEAL WITH ALL OF THEM AT ONCE.
SINCE THE THEME IS "THE ENVIRONMENT THAT NURTURED JAPAN'S NEW STAR",
THEY WANT SOME CLIPS OF HIM PLAYING WITH A JUNIOR PLAYER IN STC.
THE RISING STAR OF JAPANESE TENNIS WORLD, IKE SOUJI.
OF COURSE, THE ONE THAT THESE CAMERAS ARE POINTING TO IS NOT ME.
BUT THE TEENAGE PRO TENNIS PLAYER IN THE OPPOSITE COURT.
OKAY, I'M ALL SET!

SO IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS THAT WE NEED YOU TO DO SOME HEAVY LIFTING, RIGHT?
PLAYING AGAINST IKE-KUN RIGHT NOW IS THE BEST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN TO ME.
THIS IS MY CHANCE!

ドッ

E-EVEN THAT WAS TOO WEAK...?

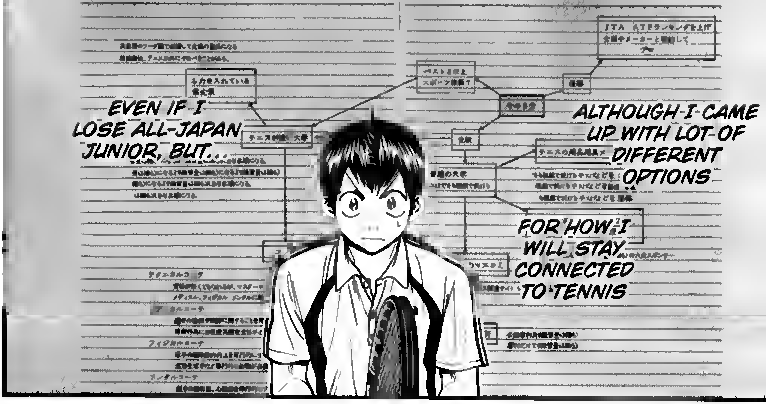

0 - 15.
わっ



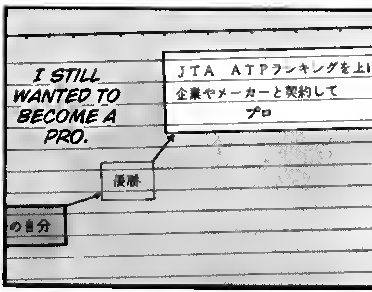
AND YOU GET TO HAVE EVEN MORE PEOPLE WATCH YOU PLAY THROUGH THE CAMERA.
OBVIOUSLY, IKE WILL BE BRINGING HIS SPONSORS OVER.
THIS IS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU.
HIS WORLD-CLASS COACHING STAFF AND SUPPORT TEAM ARE ALL THANKS TO THE FUNDS HE GATHERED FROM THEM.
THANKS TO THE MASS MEDIA, IKE WAS ALREADY PRETTY WELL-KNOWN AMONGST SPONSORS BY THE TIME HE TURNED 15.
THIS IS...
IKE MANAGED TO ACQUIRE ALL THOSE ON HIS OWN.
FROM OVERSEAS EXPEDITIONS TO CUTTING-EDGE PRACTICE FACILITIES, MONEY BECOMES A CRITICAL FACTOR FOR EVERYTHING.

WHAT IT MEANS TO REALIZE YOUR DREAM.

THIS GUY... IS LIVING AN INCREDIBLE LIFE!!!
W-RIGHT
SEE? IKE SOUJI IS AT A WHOLE NEW LEVEL.
Ike Souji 1
Maruo Eiichiro 0


EVEN IF I LOSE ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR, BUT...
ALTHOUGH I CAME UP WITH LOT OF DIFFERENT OPTIONS
FOR HOW I WILL STAY CONNECTED TO TENNIS

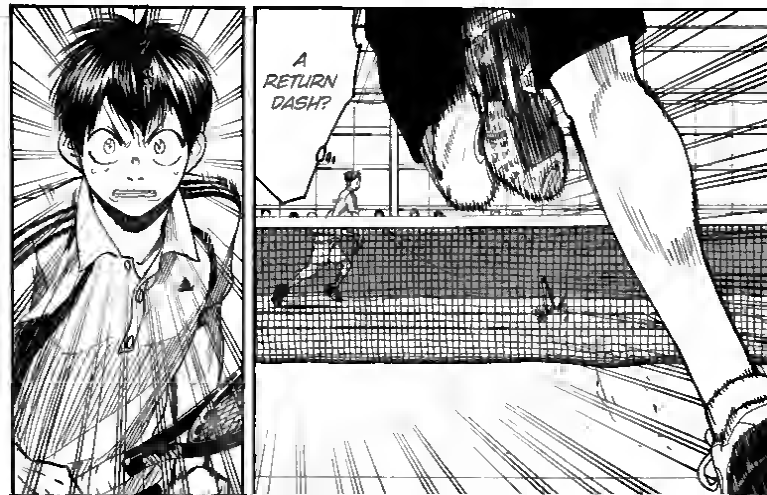
I'M SO JEAL-OUS.


I STILL WANTED TO BECOME A PRO.
ＪＴＡ ＡＴＰランキングを上げ
企業やメーカーと契約して
プロ
漫画

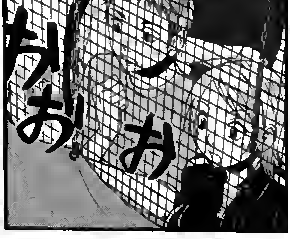
I WANT TO BE WHERE HE IS!

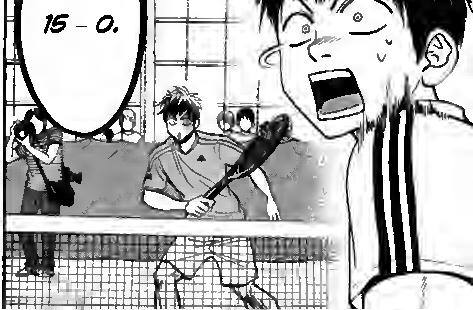
スッ
！

HA


A RETURN DASH?

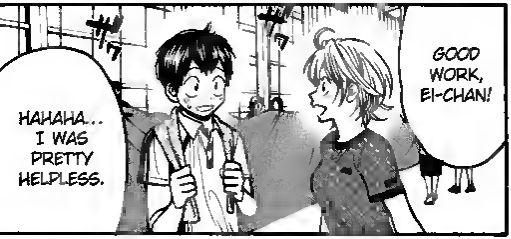
HYA


ナイスショット!!
おお


15 - 0.

HMM. I CAN SEE WHY YOU WERE SO PERSISTENT ON MATCHING HIM AGAINST SOUJI.
THAT WAS CLOSE ~
HE CHANGED THE TEMPO ALL OF A SUDDEN
はは
No way
EVEN THOUGH THAT WAS MY ALL-OR-NOTHING SHOT..
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME SHAKY PARTS,
HE'S COVERING THEM WELL WITH HIS FAST REACTIONS AND UNPREDICTABLE CHOICE OF ATTACKS
AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, HE HAS VERY GOOD CONTROL OF THE BALL.

YEAH!!!
HMM... NOT BAD.
WON'T IT BE PRETTY EXCITING TO SEE A GUY LIKE HIM START TAKING DOWN WORLD CLASS PLAYERS ONE AFTER ANOTHER?
RIGHT?
BECAUSE OF HIS LACKLUSTER PHYSIQUE AND SHALLOW TENNIS HISTORY, HE HAS BEEN CONSTANTLY SEARCHING FOR NEW WAYS TO COMPENSATE HIS DISADVANTAGE.
THAT AND A GOOD BLEND OF HIS METICULOUS PERSONALITY STARTED FORMING A SURPRISINGLY NOVEL TENNIS STYLE.


HAHAHA... I WAS PRETTY HELPLESS.
GOOD WORK, EI-CHAN!

Ike Souji 6
Maruo Eiichiro 1

YO!

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imangascans
rc.rchighway.net

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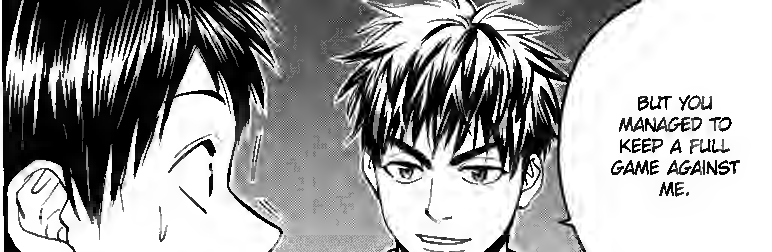
Checker:
LordLestat

LONG TIME NO SEE.. HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE NEW YEAR.
GOOD JOB.
YEAH. I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT TO SEE YOU HERE TODAY.
#191: HEAD OUT
T-THAT'S MY LINE.
YOU ARE ALREADY ON YOUR WAY TO THE TOP SO IN THE WORLD
YOU IMPROVED A LOT EVER SINCE FLORIDA.
I WAS SHOCKED.


BUT YOU MANAGED TO KEEP A FULL GAME AGAINST ME.

EI-CHAN'S TOTALLY GOTTEN A LOT STRONGER!

YIKES HE CAN GET PRETTY NASTY WHEN HE IS UPSET.
I FEEL LIKE OUR GAP SHRUNK BY A FAIR AMOUNT.
YEAH, IT WAS AMAZING HOW YOU MANAGED TO FIGHT HIM OFF.

AM I REALLY STRONG ENOUGH

R-REAL-LY?

HUH...?
AH, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME...
HOW FAR HAVE YOU TWO GONE?
W-WHAAAAT?!
W-WAIT A SEC... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, SOU-CHAN?!
A-ACTUALLY... WE ARE GOING OUT...
WHAT?!
OH, I KNOW THAT.
AH... I TOLD HIM.
EH?!

COME ON~ AS YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND, I HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW!
NO!
BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SOU-CHAN!!!
IT SLIPPED THROUGH AN E-MAIL... WAS I NOT SUPPOSED TO?
NO, IT'S TOTALLY FINE...
WELL, I GUESS I HAVE TO WORK HARD, TOO...
HUH?
AND WON'T IT BE GREAT TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND CHEERING FOR ME AT THE FAMILY SEAT?
RIGHT NOW, I REALLY WANT TO
GET A GRAND SLAM TITLE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE
WOW...

!
I REALLY ENJOYED WHAT I SAW HERE TODAY.
YOU ARE WORKING HARD FOR THAT?
WE NEED HIM TO HAVE SOME SOLID ACHIEVEMENT THAT WILL CONVINCE EVERYONE.
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN'T BE SUPPORTING EVERY SINGLE TALENTED PLAYER WE SEE.
CORPORATE SPONSORS IN JAPAN MIGHT START CHANGING THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARDS TENNIS.
IF JAPAN'S JUNIOR PLAYERS START SUCCEEDING IN THE WORLD STAGE FOLLOWING IKE-KUN'S LEAD,
TCH . WELL, IT'S TO BE EXPECTED.

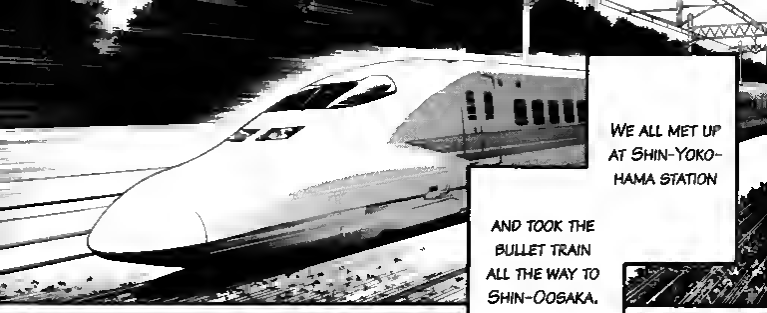
BUT STILL... I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO MARUO-KUN'S FUTURE
WELL, IT'S TIME FOR US TO GO NOW
AH, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING.
WELL THEN, TAKE CARE.
GOOD LUCK.

THAT WAS QUITE A DAY TODAY.
BUT IT'S NOT FAIR...
HUH?
WHAT...?
CAUSE EI-CHAN SEEMED LIKE YOU ARE STRUGGLING WITH SOMETHING RECENTLY.
HUH...?
OH... Y-YEAH ...
BUT YOU WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
OH ..
THEN YOU LOOKED ALL RELIEVED ONCE AFTER YOU PLAYED AGAINST SOU-CHAN.

I WAS DEFINITELY STRUGGLING A LOT... ABOUT THE COMPETITION AND MY FUTURE AND STUFF...
S-SORRY..
ACTUALLY... IT'S NOT LIKE ALL MY ANXIETIES ARE GONE, BUT...
HMM..
I-IS SHE FEELING JEALOUS TOWARDS IKE-KUN?
COME ON, WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
BUT SEEING IKE-KUN TODAY AND PLAYING AGAINST HIM
いいなぁ…
HELPED ME REMEMBER THE TIME I FIRST THOUGHT I WANT TO BE A PRO
AND MADE ME REALIZE THAT I'VE BEEN DOING MY ABSOLUTE BEST
EVER SINCE I DECIDED TO BE A PRO THAT DAY.
SO I THINK I'M FINE NOW

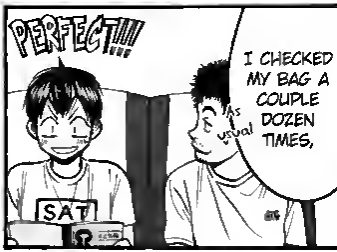
WE WILL DEFINITELY CATCH UP TO HIM ONE DAY
YUP.
BUT BEFORE THAT, LET'S DO OUR BEST IN ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR.
YUP.
AFTER TWO DAYS OF FINAL ADJUST-MENTS...

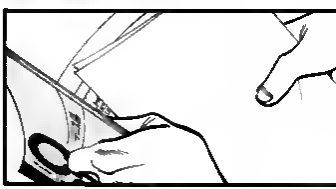
I'LL BE JOINING YOU FROM DAY THREE, OKAY?
OKAY.
DAY BEFORE ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, I DEFINITELY PLAN ON WINNING, OKAY?
YOUR DAD SAYS HE'S A BIT BUSY WITH WORK RIGHT NOW, BUT HE'LL DEFINITELY JOIN US LATER ON.
I KNOW. DO YOUR BEST.
GOT IT.
OKAY, I'M HEADING OFF!
BE CAREFUL, OKAY?


We all met up at Shin-Yokohama station
and took the bullet train all the way to Shin-Oosaka.

I had a good sleep last night, and breakfast was fine.
A little bit, but

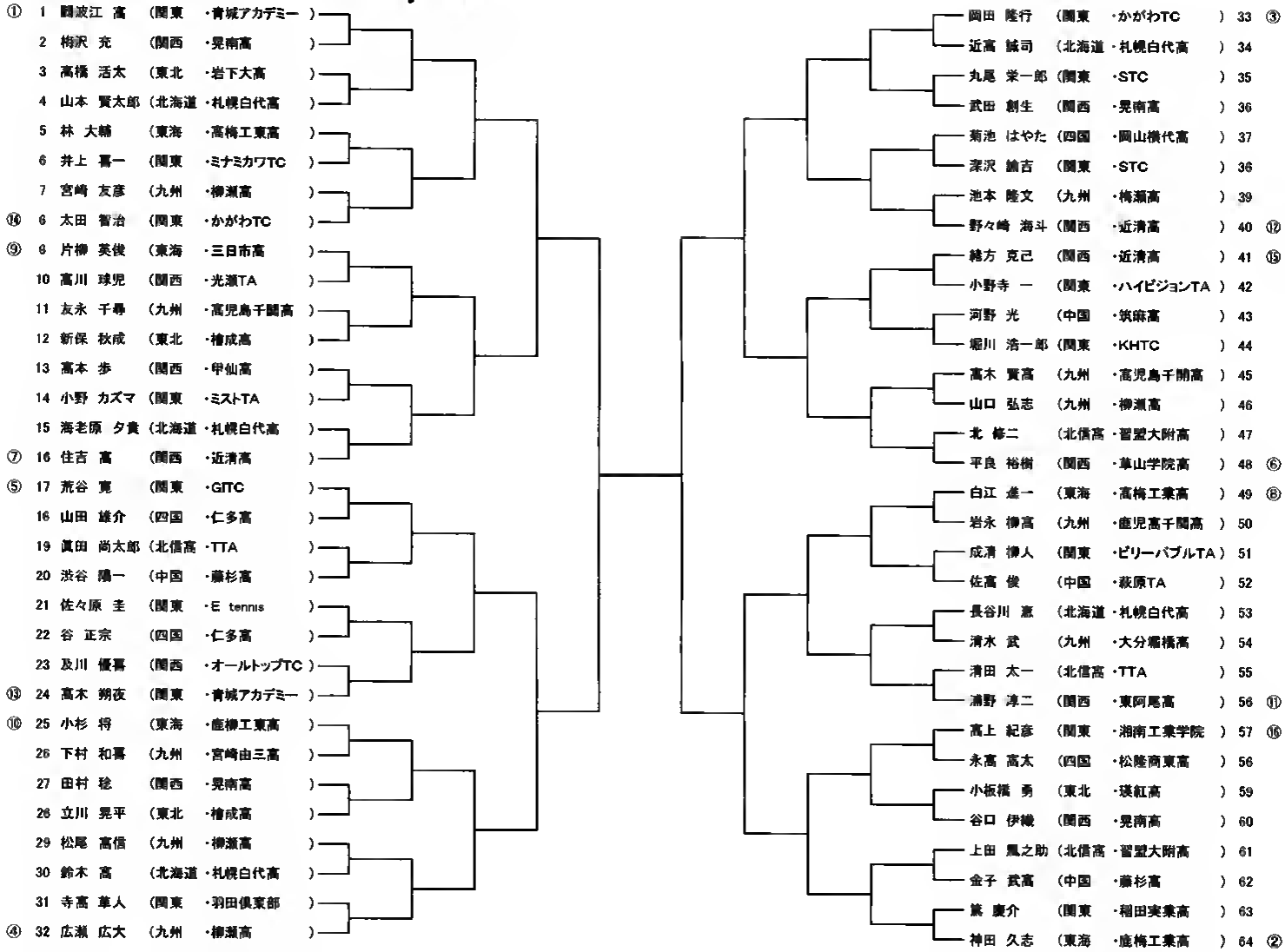
Are you still feeling nervous?


PERFECT!!!!
I checked my bag a couple dozen times,
As usual



# National Junior Tennis Tournament

## Boys under 18



新大阪
しんおおさか
Shin-Osaka
きょうと
Kyoto
STARTING TOMORROW.
IF I CAN KEEP WINNING FOR ONE WHOLE WEEK, I CAN BECOME A PRO.
THE TOURNAMENT CONSISTS OF 64 PLAYERS, ALL WHO SURVIVED THROUGH REGIONAL QUALIFIERS.

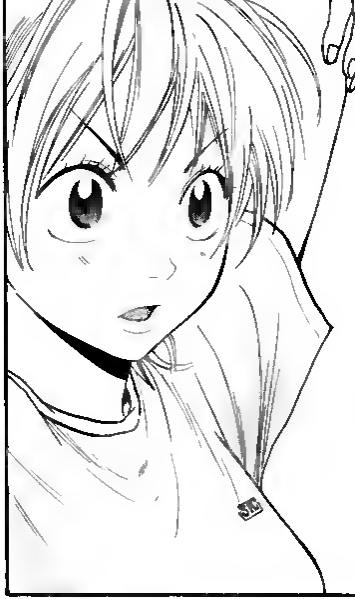
AND WE ARRIVED AT OUR BATTLEGROUND IN OOSAKA.

DUNLOP
DUNLOP
OKAY LET'S DO A QUICK TWO-HOUR WARM UP.
START STRETCH-ING!
YES, COACH!!!

E-EVERYONE AROUND US LOOK PRETTY STRONG.
I FELT THE SAME THING LAST YEAR, TOO.
THE NATIONALS CERTAINLY FEELS DIFFERENT.
BUT WE ARE A PART OF THEM THIS YEAR!
YEAH.

HOW SHOULD I FIGHT IF I WANT TO WIN WITHOUT LOSING MY STYLE...?
WIN THIS AND ONTO ALL-JAPAN PLAY-OFFS ... THEN I'LL GO PRO ON DECEMBER.
WAY TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE HERE ALREADY.
IT'S ABOUT TIME I WIN THIS THING...
YONEX

ONCE THIS IS OVER, WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT TO OVERSEAS.



OKAY ...

THE JUNIORS' LAST SUMMER HAS BEGUN!
ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR TENNIS COMPETITION
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOL 2!

週刊少年マガジンの兄弟誌

週刊少年マガジン
11月5日号増刊

# マガジンSPECIAL

毎月20日発売!!
定価500円

[会話]

★週マガ大人気連載
特別出張番外編!!

## [ベイビーステップ]

勝木 光

連載1周年
&KC 2巻発売記念
増ページ!!

## [ねらいうち!!]

KC 9巻
発売記念
Cカラー!!

## [マンプリ!!]

KC 5巻
発売記念
読みきり!!

## [ボックス! 外伝]

KC30巻
発売記念
巻頭カラー!!

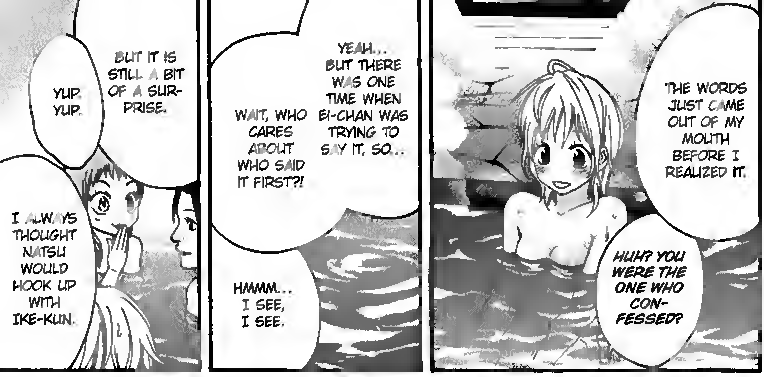
## [おれはキャプテン]

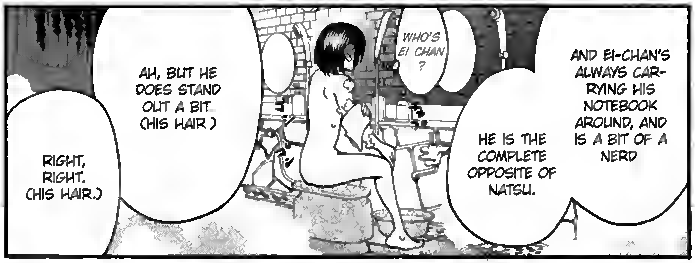
~高校編~ 高校3年生の章~ゴールイン編~

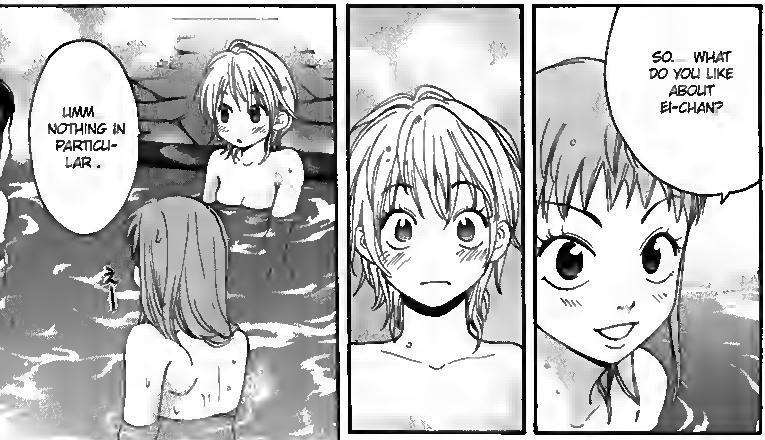
# ビッツと気合のスポーツ満載!!

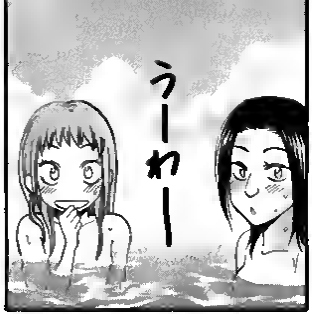
*THIS IS SET ONE DAY AFTER EI-CHAN AND NATSU STARTED DATING.
NAKAJOU MEGUMI
GIRLS 4TH SEED
SHE IS CONSIDERED THE ONLY REAL OPPONENT OF TAKASAKI NATSU IN THIS COMPETITION. 2ND YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I DID TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY BODY AND DID NOT LET ANY STRESS CARRY OVER FROM THE PREVIOUS
AT THIS RATE, I'LL BE UP AGAINST TAKASAKI NATSU AFTER TWO MORE MATCHES..!
HUH?

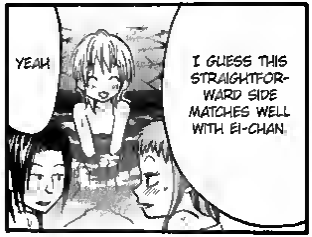
TA-TAKA-SAKI-SAN?!
The fire-works were fun~
SO TAKA-SAKI-SAN . HAS A BOY-FRIEND
BUT DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE AC-TUALLY GOING OUT
I WAS ALWAYS WONDERING 'CAUSE YOU TWO ARE SO CLOSE,
BUT I WAS SO SUR-PRISED TODAY
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S FEELING PRETTY CONFIDENT!
Even though I'm wearing pretty casual
COME ON. COME ON.
AWWW~~ IT'S SO EMBAR-RASS-ING~
YOU AREN'T HOLDING BACK AT ALL!
てれっ
YOU SEE, AT THE BEACH ~~~
WAIT
SHE STARTED GOING OUT WITH HIM YESTER-DAY?
BUT CON-FESSING THE DAY BEFORE A BIG MATCH? WHAT WERE YOU TWO THINKING?
COME ON~ TELL US MORE ABOUT IT~


THE WORDS JUST CAME OUT OF MY MOUTH BEFORE I REALIZED IT.
HUH? YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CONFESSED?
YEAH... BUT THERE WAS ONE TIME WHEN EI-CHAN WAS TRYING TO SAY IT, SO...
WAIT, WHO CARES ABOUT WHO SAID IT FIRST?!
HMMM... I SEE, I SEE.
BUT IT IS STILL A BIT OF A SURPRISE.
YUP. YUP.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT NATSU WOULD HOOK UP WITH IKE-KUN.


AND EI-CHAN'S ALWAYS CARRYING HIS NOTEBOOK AROUND, AND IS A BIT OF A NERD
WHO'S EI CHAN?
HE IS THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF NATSU.
AH, BUT HE DOES STAND OUT A BIT. (HIS HAIR)
RIGHT, RIGHT. (HIS HAIR.)


SO... WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT EI-CHAN?
UMM NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.

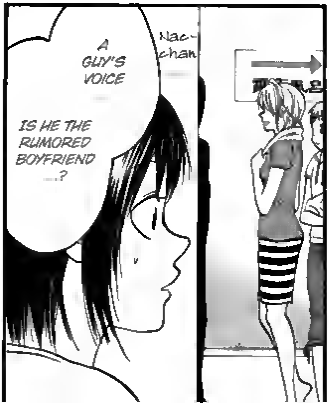

うーわー


I GUESS THIS STRAIGHTFORWARD SIDE MATCHES WELL WITH EI-CHAN.
YEAH

I JUST REALLY LIKE HIM.

HMMM I WONDER WHAT SORT OF GUY EI-CHAN IS.

ARGH~ YOU MADE US STAY LONG, NATSU.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED ME!


Nac-chan
A GUY'S VOICE
IS HE THE RUMORED BOYFRIEND ...?

AH... NACCHAN.

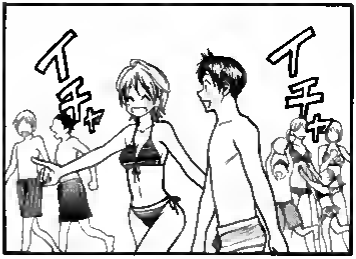
WHOA!
ドーン
Cam
ドキ ドキ
ナ?
T-THIS IS HIM?
NERDY
NOTEBOOK
STANDS OUT
Huh? Naka-jou-san?
?
G-GO HAVE FUN WHILE YOU CAN!
I'LL JUST BEAT YOU IN TENNIS!
ガ!
Wait, why am I disappointed!?

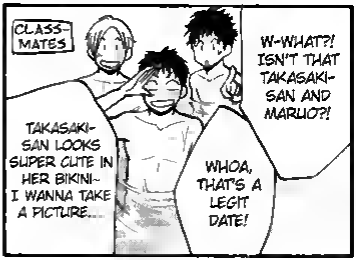
HEY! GIVE ME BACK MY NOTES, YUKI-CHI-KUN!
HMM?
ニヤニヤ
W-WHY? SOME-THING WRONG?
?
N-NOTHING, NOTHING~
Hey! It's gonna drip!
Your notes are clean as usual~
SPECIAL CHAPTER★THE END

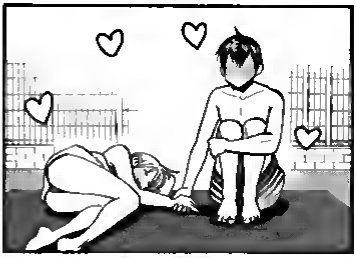
Baby Steps

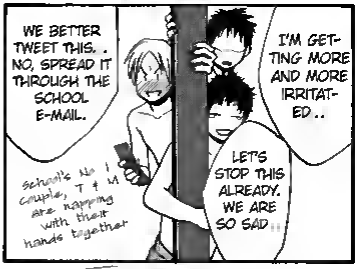
# Baby Steps ㉑ Extra

## BEWARE OF DATING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD




CLASS-MATES
W-WHAT?! ISN'T THAT TAKASAKI-SAN AND MARUO?!
TAKASAKI-SAN LOOKS SUPER CUTE IN HER BIKINI~ I WANNA TAKE A PICTURE...
WHOA, THAT'S A LEGIT DATE!




WE BETTER TWEET THIS. . NO, SPREAD IT THROUGH THE SCHOOL E-MAIL.
I'M GETTING MORE AND MORE IRRITATED..
School's No 1 couple, T & M are napping with their hands together
LET'S STOP THIS ALREADY. WE ARE SO SAD..

Date

Hello this is Katsuki

Volume 21 went through the three weeks between All-Japan Junior in ten chapters while I was writing these something incredible happened in the week right before Ike's chapter came out what a coincidence! Kei Nishikori who is the inspiration for Ike, (although there are a fair amount of changes) beat Djokovic, the number 1 player in the world! I was so excited while I was researching about corporate teams I learned about how some of the highschoolers I interviewed are doing right now everything blessed through so quickly I wanted to add a bit more about Inter-High.

All-Japan Junior finally starts in next volume

See you again!

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# Baby Steps

ベイビーステップ

RAWs: Imangascans
Translator: Ruggia
Proofreader: Reika
Cleaner: Stark & MrHame
Typesetter: Kaji
Q.C Checker: LordLestat